



# TRUMP'S RETREAT



*Shutdown ends without wall money, for now*

President Donald Trump speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House, Friday, Jan 25, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By JILL COLVIN, LISA MASCARO and ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Submitting to mounting pressure and growing

disruption, President Donald Trump agreed to a deal Friday to reopen the government for three weeks, backing down from his demand that Congress

give him money for his border wall before federal agencies get back to work. Standing alone in the Rose Garden, Trump said he would sign legislation

funding shuttered agencies until Feb. 15 and try again to persuade lawmakers to finance his long-sought wall. The deal he reached with congressional leaders

contains no new money for the wall but ends the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

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# Shutdown ends without wall money, for now

Continued from Front

First the Senate, then the House swiftly and unanimously approved the deal, sending the legislation to Trump for his signature.

Trump's retreat came in the 35th day of the partial shutdown as intensifying delays at the nation's airports and another missed payday for hundreds of thousands of federal workers brought new urgency to efforts to resolve the standoff.

The shutdown was ending as Democratic leaders had insisted it must — reopen the government first, then talk border security.

"The president thought he could crack Democrats, and he didn't, and I hope it's a lesson for him," said the Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said of her members: "Our unity is our power. And that is what maybe the president underestimated."

Trump still made the case for a border wall and maintained he might again shut down the government over



Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of N.Y., accompanied by Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, calls on a reporter during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, after President Donald Trump announces a deal to reopen the government for three weeks.

it. Yet, as negotiations restart, Trump enters them from a weakened position. Recent polls found Trump bore the blame for the shutdown.

"If we don't get a fair deal from Congress, the govern-

ment will either shut down on Feb. 15, again, or I will use the powers afforded to me under the laws and Constitution of the United States to address this emergency," Trump said.

The president has said he could declare a national emergency to fund the border wall unilaterally if Congress doesn't provide the money. Such a move would almost certainly face legal hurdles.

As part of the deal with congressional leaders, a bipartisan committee of House and Senate lawmakers was being formed to consider border spending as part of the legislative process in the weeks ahead.

"They are willing to put partisanship aside, I think, and put the security of the American people first," Trump said. He asserted that a "barrier or walls will be an important part of the solution."

The deal includes back pay for some 800,000 federal workers who have gone without paychecks. The Trump administration promises to pay them as soon as possible.

As border talks resume, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he hopes there will be "good-

faith negotiations over the next three weeks to try to resolve our differences."

Schumer said that while Democrats oppose the wall money, they agree on other ways to secure the border "and that bodes well for coming to an eventual agreement."

In striking the accord, Trump risks backlash from conservatives who pushed him to keep fighting for the wall. Some lashed out Friday for his having yielded, for now, on his signature campaign promise.

Money for the wall is not at all guaranteed, as Democrats have held united against building a structure as Trump once envisioned, preferring other types of border technology. Asked about Trump's wall, Pelosi, who has said repeatedly she won't approve money for it, said: "Have I not been clear? No, I have been very clear."

Within the White House, there was broad recognition among Trump's aides that the shutdown pressure was growing, and they couldn't keep the standoff going indefinitely. The president's approval numbers had suffered during the impasse. Overnight and Friday, several Republicans were calling on him openly,

and in private, to reopen the government.

The breakthrough came as LaGuardia Airport in New York and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey both experienced at least 90-minute delays in takeoffs Friday because of the shutdown. And the world's busiest airport — Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport — was experiencing long security wait times, a warning sign the week before it expects 150,000 out-of-town visitors for the Super Bowl.

The standoff became so severe that, as the Senate opened with prayer, Chaplain Barry Black called on high powers in the "hour of national turmoil" to help senators do "what is right." Senators were talking with increased urgency after Thursday's defeat of competing proposals from Trump and the Democrats. Bipartisan talks provided a glimmer of hope Friday that some agreement could be reached. But several senators said they didn't know what to expect as they arrived to watch the president's televised address from their lunchroom off the Senate floor.

The Senate first rejected a Republican plan Thursday reopening the government through September and giving Trump the \$5.7 billion he's demanded for building segments of that wall, a project that he'd long promised Mexico would finance. The 50-47 vote for the measure fell 10 shy of the 60 votes needed to succeed.

Minutes later, senators voted 52-44 for a Democratic alternative that sought to open padlocked agencies through Feb. 8 with no wall money.

That was eight votes short. But it earned more support than Trump's plan, even though Republicans control the chamber 53-47. It was aimed at giving bargainers time to seek an accord while getting paychecks to government workers who are either working without pay or being forced to stay home. □

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## Pot owners plead guilty in unique charges vs. legal business

By KATHLEEN FOODY  
Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — The owners of a Denver marijuana business pleaded guilty Friday to drug and racketeering charges and will spend a year in prison in what city officials called the first local prosecution of a legal pot enterprise in the U.S.

A yearlong investigation of Sweet Leaf's sales practices centered on a practice known as "looping," where a customer purchases the maximum amount of marijuana that Colorado law permits and repeatedly returns to the same retailer to purchase more on the same day. Prosecutors believe people using the strategy at Sweet Leaf locations purchased more than 2 tons of marijuana intended for sale on the black market.

The case is unique in that Denver authorities charged a pot business in one of 10 states plus Washington,



In this Dec. 14, 2017 file photo closed signs are displayed on the front door to a marijuana dispensary along South Federal Boulevard in south Denver.

Associated Press

D.C., that broadly allow marijuana use by adults and a commercial market to supply cannabis products. The majority of such businesses "are reputable and responsible and strive to obey our marijuana laws," Denver District Attorney Beth McCann said in a statement.

Under a plea agreement, Matthew Aiken, Christian

Johnson and Anthony Sauro will serve one year in prison followed by a year of parole tied to the drug charge and a year of probation for the racketeering charge.

Aiken, 40, was sentenced immediately, and courtroom deputies placed him in handcuffs following the hearing. Johnson, 50, and Sauro, 33, will be sentenced

in several weeks. Senior Deputy District Attorney Kenneth Boyd said investigators found evidence that Sweet Leaf's owners knew about and encouraged the illegal sales. Employees would even contact buyers known as "loopers" to notify them of medical marijuana deliveries to dispensaries, he said.

"Once the practice was authorized by ownership, it was pushed at the highest levels," Boyd said. "It was sell, sell, sell. This was about greed and making money, and that came from the top."

Denver police began investigating the chain of dispensaries in 2016 after a neighbor of one Sweet Leaf location complained about repeat customers visiting the dispensary day after day.

Investigators scrutinized Sweet Leaf's sales practices by using data collected by state regulators and

material collected during December 2017 raids of several company properties. Several months earlier, the company's owners told Marijuana Business Magazine that they had 350 employees and \$60 million in revenue.

Boyd said the 12 low-level employees arrested during the raids have since reached plea agreements contingent on community service. Two former managers received 30-day jail sentences in November as part of a plea agreement that required them to cooperate with investigators. Boyd said Denver prosecutors still are pursuing cases against 10 people accused of using looping to buy excess marijuana at Sweet Leaf locations.

The investigation prompted Colorado regulators last year to clarify rules limiting how much marijuana an individual customer can buy in one day. □



# Trump confidant Stone charged with lying about hacked emails

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump's confidant Roger Stone was charged with lying about his pursuit of Russian-hacked emails damaging to Hillary Clinton's 2016 election bid, with prosecutors alleging that senior Trump campaign officials sought to leverage the stolen material into a White House win.

The self-proclaimed dirty trickster, arrested by the FBI in a raid before dawn Friday at his Florida home, swiftly blasted the prosecution as politically motivated. In a circus-like atmosphere outside the courthouse, as supporters cheered him on and jeering spectators shouted "Lock Him Up," Stone proclaimed his innocence and predicted his vindication. "As I have said previously, there is no circumstance whatsoever under which I will bear false witness against the president, nor will I make up lies to ease the pressure on myself," Stone said.

The seven-count indictment, the first criminal case in months in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, provides the most detail to date about how Trump campaign associates in the summer of 2016 actively sought the disclosure of emails the U.S. says were hacked by Russia and then provided to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. It alleges that an



Former campaign adviser for President Donald Trump, Roger Stone walks out of the federal courthouse following a hearing, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

unidentified senior Trump campaign official was "directed" to keep in contact with Stone about when stolen emails relating to Clinton might be disclosed. Stone is the sixth Trump aide or adviser charged by Mueller and the 34th person overall. The nearly two-year-old probe has exposed multiple contacts between Trump associates and Russia during the campaign and transition period and revealed efforts by several to conceal those communications. The indictment brings the investigation even further into Trump's circle of advisers and suggests campaign officials were eager to exploit the stolen messages for political gain. But prosecutors did not accuse Trump of wrongdoing or charge Stone with conspiring with WikiLeaks or with the Russian intelligence officers Mueller says hacked the emails. They also did not al-

lege that Trump aides knew in advance of the hacking. The prosecution mirrors other Mueller cases in alleging cover-ups and deception, accusing Stone of lying to lawmakers about WikiLeaks, tampering with witnesses and obstructing a House intelligence committee probe into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to tip the election.

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said the indictment "does not allege Russian collusion by Roger Stone or anyone else." Trump himself on Friday called the investigation the "Greatest Witch Hunt in the History of our Country!" CNN aired video of the raid at Stone's home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, showing agents in body armor using large weapons and night-vision equipment, running up to the home and banging on the door. Though not uncommon for the FBI

to make early-morning arrests of targets under indictment, it's the first time Mueller has used that tactic. In court papers, prosecutors wrote they had concerns that if Stone was tipped off to the indictment, it would increase the risk he would flee or destroy evidence. Hours after his arrest, Stone appeared in court in a blue polo shirt and jeans. In releasing him on \$250,000 bond, a magistrate judge restricted Stone's travel to South Florida, Washington and New York City and ordered him to avoid contact with witnesses. He's due Tuesday in a court in Washington, where the case was filed. "This morning, at the crack of dawn, 29 FBI agents arrived at my home with 17 vehicles, with their lights flashing, when they could simply have contacted my attorneys and I would have been more than willing to surrender voluntarily," Stone said outside court. Known for his political antics, conspiracy theories and hard-ball tactics, Stone has reveled in being a Washington wheeler-dealer dating back to former President Richard Nixon's administration. On Friday, he mimicked Nixon's famous "V" gesture as he left the courthouse.

Stone, a longtime friend of the president's, briefly served on Trump's campaign, but was pushed out amid infighting with then-campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. Though sidelined, he continued to

communicate with Trump and stayed plugged into his circle of advisers.

The indictment says Stone repeatedly discussed WikiLeaks in 2016 with campaign associates and lays out in detail Stone's conversations about emails stolen from Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and posted in the weeks before Trump beat Clinton. The document says that by June and July 2016, Stone had told senior Trump campaign officials that he had information indicating that WikiLeaks had obtained damaging documents on Clinton. After WikiLeaks on July 22, 2016, released hacked emails from the Democratic National Committee, the indictment says, a senior Trump campaign official "was directed" to contact Stone about additional releases and "what other damaging information" WikiLeaks had "regarding the Clinton campaign." The indictment does not name the official or say who directed the outreach to Stone.

Though no officials are identified by name, one Trump campaign aide cited in the case is Steve Bannon, who later became Trump's chief White House strategist. Bannon, referred to as a "high-ranking Trump Campaign official," exchanged emails with Stone in October 2016 about WikiLeaks' plans. The indictment quotes from those emails, which had previously been made public by news outlets. □



President Donald Trump speaks about tariffs, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

## Trump donates \$100,000 from salary to alcoholism research

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump has donated his salary from the third-quarter of 2018 to the federal agency that researches alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

The White House says Trump donated \$100,000 to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Alcoholism is a personal issue for the president.

His older brother, Fred Jr., died in 1981 after struggling with alcoholism, and the presi-

dent has said he learned from his brother's experience.

Trump pledged as a candidate in 2016 to not accept the \$400,000 annual presidential salary he would be due if elected.

By law, he must be paid so Trump has donated the quarterly payments to various federal departments and agencies.

The departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Transportation and Veterans Affairs, among others, have accepted Trump's donations. □



# Measles outbreak grows in northwest U.S., 30 cases reported

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) —

The number of confirmed measles cases near Portland grew to 30 on Friday — an outbreak boosted by lower-than-normal vaccination rates in what has been called an anti-vaccination U.S. “hot spot.”

Public health officials in southwest Washington, just across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon, said people may have been exposed to the dangerous disease at more than three dozen locations, including Portland International Airport, a Portland Trail Blazers game, an Amazon Locker location and stores such as Costco and Ikea.

Twenty-six of the confirmed patients had not been vaccinated against measles, and the vaccination status of four others who were infected is unknown. One child has been hospitalized. Authorities say nine additional cases are suspected.

Most of the cases involved children younger than 10, the Clark County Public Health Department said in a statement. One adult is infected, and the rest are teenagers.

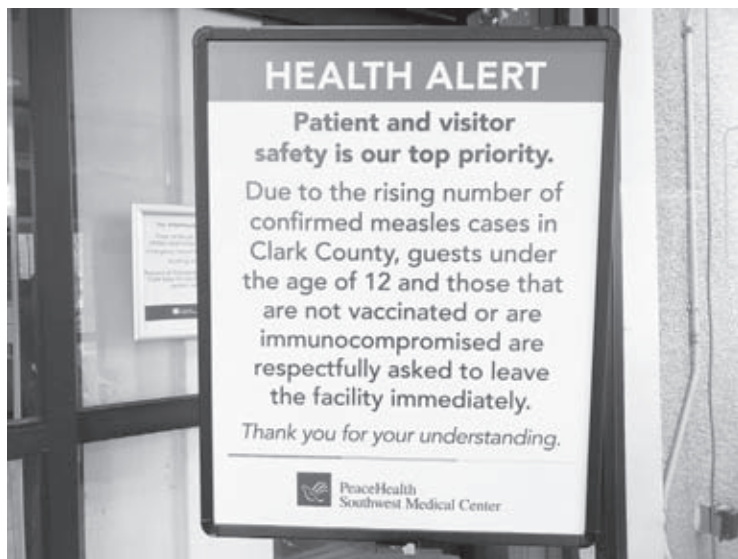
Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, declared a statewide public health emergency for his state on Friday. Authorities in neighboring Oregon and Idaho have issued warnings.

Inslee said the number of cases “creates an extreme public health risk that may quickly spread to other counties.”

The measles vaccine has been part of routine childhood shots for decades, and measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000.

But measles is still a big problem in other parts of the world. Travelers infected abroad can bring the virus into the country and spread it, causing periodic outbreaks.

Last year, there were 17 outbreaks and about 350 cases of measles in the U.S. Officials still are not sure where this Pacific North-



A sign prohibiting all children under 12 and unvaccinated adults stands at the entrance to PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver, Wash., Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

west outbreak began. The first known patient sought medical care on Dec. 31, but it is unknown if other people may have gotten sick before that and did not seek treatment. Public health officials are focused for now on preventing more exposures.

It could be weeks or even months before the “exquisitely contagious” virus runs its course in Washington, Dr. Alan Melnick, the Clark County health officer, said Friday.

People who choose not to vaccinate their children are underestimating the dangers of the illness, said Melnick, who himself had measles as a child, before the vaccine was commonplace.

Before the vaccine, 400 to 500 people died from the measles each year, 50,000 people were hospitalized and 4,000 people developed brain swelling that can cause deafness, he said. Between one and three cases out of every 1,000 are fatal, he said.

“It’s one of the most contagious viruses we have. It can have really serious complications ... and it’s entirely preventable with an incredibly cheap and safe vaccine,” Melnick said. Clark County has already spent more than \$100,000 trying to contain the outbreak, and staff is being pulled from other duties, including restaurant inspections, he said.

“It’s all hands on deck.

Clearly this is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and it wouldn’t surprise me if we were in the

seven figures by the time we’re done here,” he said. “These costs could have been prevented if we had everybody vaccinated.”

Clark County, which includes the Portland bedroom community of Vancouver, Washington, has a measles vaccination rate of 78 percent, well below the 92 to 94 percent rate required for so-called “herd immunity,” said Marissa Armstrong, the department’s spokeswoman.

Herd immunity happens when unvaccinated individuals are protected from infection because almost everyone around them has been vaccinated and is immune to a disease.

The measles vaccination rate for 2-year-olds in Mult-

nomah County, home to Portland, was 87 percent in 2017, according to state data. The measles vaccine consists of two shots, one given by age 2 and the second usually between ages 4 and 6.

Data on Portland’s vaccination rate for both shots wasn’t immediately available. Two doses of the vaccine in childhood are 97 percent effective and provide lifetime immunity. One dose is about 93 percent effective.

Both Washington and Oregon allow vaccine exemptions for personal and philosophical reasons. The vaccine exemption rate in Clark County for non-medical reasons was high, at 7.5 percent, Armstrong said. □

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# Experts: Decent chance Van Dyke's sentence will be tossed

By **MICHAEL TARM**  
Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Some legal experts believe there's a reasonable chance the prison sentence of less than seven years imposed on a white Chicago police officer last week for second-degree murder in the fatally shooting black teenager Laquan McDonald 16 times could be tossed out and a new sentencing ordered.

Van Dyke, 40, went to trial charged with first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory minimum prison term of 45 years. But jurors in October opted to replace it with second-degree murder after finding Van Dyke shot McDonald out of fear for his life, though that fear was unreasonable.

They convicted him of one count of second-degree murder, which carries a prison term of between four and 20 years, and of 16 counts of aggravated battery — one for each shot. Each count of aggravated battery carries a prison term of between six and 30 years. Because of the number of counts and other factors, it's widely agreed that Van Dyke could have gotten a far stiffer sentence if sentenced on the battery counts.

But Van Dyke will almost certainly serve just half of his second-degree murder sentence and end up behind bars for only around three years when credit for good behavior is factored in. Many community activists have called the sentence a mere slap on the wrist.

Here's a look at how that happened and some of the legal issues involved:

## **Q: WHAT'S THE BIG LEGAL ISSUE?**

**A:** At sentencing, Judge Gaughan laid out the decisive legal question he had to answer before he could pronounce sentence. "Was it more serious," he asked, "for Laquan McDonald to be shot by a firearm or is it more serious for Laquan McDonald to be murdered by a firearm?"

The issue stems from what is known in Illinois as the one-

act, one-crime doctrine. If the accused is convicted of multiple crimes for what amounts to a single act, then the judge can only

premise Court ruling in a case called *People vs. Lee* that also involved someone convicted of both second-degree murder and aggra-

flags. "It's very, very unusual," said a Chicago based-criminal attorney Phil Turner. "The majority decision is the controlling decision. As a

the sentence was wrong." Van Dyke's lawyer, Dan Herbert, disagreed in a statement this week responding to talk about an appeal of the sentence. He said "the judge in this case carefully considered the arguments made and issued the correct ruling under the law."

## **Q: WHY IS THE ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL WEIGHING IN?**

Kwame Raoul, sworn in as the state's new attorney general just five days before Van Dyke was sentenced, previously represented a district in the Illinois Senate that includes minority areas on Chicago's South Side. He frequently campaigned on civil rights and spoke out about police abuse after McDonald's killing.

A spokeswoman for the attorney general's office, Maura Possley, said a brief Thursday statement that "we are going to do a careful review of the record and the law and make a determination based on our review." But she offered no details, including on potential lines of argument in any appeal.

After Raoul's office announced that it was reviewing Van Dyke's sentence, Herbert, criticized the attorney general, saying the action was politically motivated. He said the attorney's general's office could have weighed in prior to sentencing in a friend-of-the-court brief and made its views clear to the judge then.

"Now he suddenly has concerns after the sentencing in the wake of some public outcry," Herbert said in a written statement. "This is about politics not the law." The special prosecutor who tried the case, Joseph McMahon, confirmed this week his office was also reviewing the sentence. But he was non-committal. His statement said prosecutors can't directly appeal a sentence but can seek what is called a writ of mandamus — an order from the Illinois Supreme Court telling a judge to adhere to the correct law. □



**Former Chicago police Officer Jason Van Dyke and his attorney Daniel Herbert listen during Van Dyke's sentencing hearing at the Leighton Criminal Court Building, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, in Chicago, for the 2014 shooting of Laquan McDonald.**

Associated Press

sentence the defendant for the most serious crime. The doctrine was designed to prevent prosecutors from trying to inflate sentences by piling charges onto a single act.

Under the doctrine, a bank robber who beat a guard outside a bank, who fatally shot someone inside and who got away with the bank's money would have committed three separate acts and so can be sentenced for all three. But Van Dyke's shooting of McDonald was considered a single act; the 16 shots fired over a span of no more than 30 seconds both murdered him and physically battered the 17-year-old. Gaughan said second degree murder was the more serious crime, adding: "Common sense comes to an easy answer."

## **Q: CONTROLLING PRECEDENT?**

**A:** Several legal experts said his answer may sound easy and intuitive, but that it's also wrong. They say his conclusion runs directly counter to guiding precedent — a 2004 Illinois Su-

perior Court ruling in a

case called *People vs. Lee* that also involved someone convicted of both second-degree murder and aggravated battery. The majority of justices concluded that trial judges need simply look at the sentences Illinois legislators deemed appropriate for each crime: Between two crimes, the one with the higher sentence is the more serious. Though it's counter-intuitive, they said unambiguously that aggravated battery had the higher sentence, hence is the more serious crime under Illinois law.

In his brief, 10-minute explanation of his sentence for Van Dyke, Gaughan did refer to the *People vs. Lee* case. But he only cited its dissent, in which Justice Robert Thomas said the length of the sentences shouldn't be the sole factor determining the seriousness of a crime. Thomas suggested judges should have more leeway and look at each sentencing on a case-by-case basis.

## **Q: DOES HIS REASONING RAISE QUESTIONS?**

**A:** Several legal experts said Gaughan's reference only to a dissent on such a crucial question does raise red

lower court judge, you are bound to follow the majority opinion." "He was clearly looking for some support from somewhere for what he was doing," which he found in the dissent, Turner said. "He had a conclusion and wanted to justify it." Turner said a sentence in the decades would have been more appropriate. He calls Gaughan's sentence "a joke," saying it sends the message that police officers aren't subject to the same set of sentencing rules.

Another defense attorney also not connected to Van Dyke's case, Steve Greenberg, said he sympathized with Gaughan's reference to common sense. But he also agreed that by reaching for a dissent to justify his sentence he may have opened the way for a higher court to throw the sentence out.

"From a logical standpoint, I think (Gaughan's) sentence is correct," he said. "From a legal standpoint, it might not be." He added: "I think there is a fair chance the higher court would say





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## St. Louis officer charged after deadly game with revolver

By JIM SALTER  
Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — A male St. Louis police officer was charged Friday with involuntary manslaughter in the shooting death of a female officer during what was described as a deadly game with a revolver.

Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner announced the charge against Nathaniel Hendren, 29, in the death of 24-year-old Katlyn Alix, as they allegedly played a game in which a revolver's cylinder was emptied, one bullet put back and the two colleagues taking turns pointing at each other and pulling the trigger.

Alix was with two male officers at an apartment



**his undated photo released by the St. Louis Police Department shows officer Katlyn Alix. St. Louis police say an officer "mishandled" a gun and accidentally shot and killed Alix early Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, at an officer's home. Associated Press**

when she was killed just before 1 a.m. Thursday. A probable cause statement

from police, provided by Gardner's office, offered a chilling account of the dangerous game that led to her death. The probable cause statement said Alix and Hendren were playing with guns when Hendren produced a revolver.

"The defendant emptied the cylinder of the revolver and then put one cartridge back into the cylinder," the statement said. He allegedly spun the cylinder, pointed the gun away and pulled the trigger.

The gun did not fire. The statement said Alix took the gun, pointed it at Hendren and pulled the trigger. Again, it didn't fire.

Hendren "took the gun back and pointed it at the

victim (and) pulled the trigger causing the gun to discharge," the statement said. "The victim was struck in the chest."

The other male officer told investigators he warned Hendren and Alix not to play with guns and reminded them they were police officers. He was about to leave when he heard the fatal shot, the statement said. The male officers drove Alix to a hospital where she died. Hendren also is charged with armed criminal action.

The two men were on-duty at the time of the shooting. Police Chief John Hayden has declined to answer questions about why the officers had gathered at

the apartment, which was home to one of the men.

St. Louis police said the charges were the result of a promise Hayden made to Alix's family to conduct a "thorough and competent investigation."

Alix, a military veteran who was married, was not working but met the men at the apartment. Police immediately launched an internal investigation and placed both officers on paid leave. Gardner also began her own investigation on Thursday and enlisted the Missouri State Highway Patrol to conduct it.

Alix was a patrol officer who had graduated from the St. Louis Police Academy in January 2017. □

## Appeals judges see delay tactics in child immigration fight

By LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Both sides in the dispute over a program sparing many young immigrants from deportation appear to be purposefully dragging out their legal fight, federal appeals judges said Friday.

The observations came as a three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in New York.

Circuit Judge Dennis Jacobs smiled as he noted that the panel's eventual ruling would be "preliminary and duplicative" since it pertains to a temporary ruling by a Brooklyn federal judge that came

before evidence is fully gathered and analyzed and while similar cases proceed elsewhere.

The U.S. government is appealing Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis' finding last February that President Donald Trump's administration failed to offer legally adequate reasons to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions had said President Barack Obama's 2012 decision to implement DACA was an unconstitutional exercise of authority. Often called "dreamers," for never-passed proposals in Congress called the DREAM Act, participants in the program were brought

to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families who overstayed visas.

The ruling by Garaufis came in lawsuits brought by immigration rights groups and 16 states and the District of Columbia. Ruling in similar fashion to a San Francisco judge, Garaufis concluded the Trump administration relied on an "erroneous" belief the program was unconstitutional.

Jacobs noted that a speedy resolution in the courts to the DACA dilemma was unlikely.

He told Anisha Dasgupta, a New York state lawyer who argued that Garaufis' ruling should be upheld, that the legal strategy by

DACA supporters guaranteed they would get a nationwide injunction.

"You have to concede that if you start 10 lawsuits and any single judge can have a nationwide injunction, it's like buying up all the raffle tickets. You're going to win," he said.

Jacobs said that with over 100,000 potential plaintiffs, "judge shopping becomes very easy."

Circuit Judge Robert D. Sack confronted a lawyer for the U.S. Justice Department over its decision to continue the court fight rather than address the legal flaws in how the program was cancelled and cancel it anew.

Sack said he found it "puz-

zling you've been litigating here and all over the country."

Attorney Mark Stern, representing the Justice Department, said the U.S. continued litigating the issue because of the principles at stake.

"The basis of the district court's injunction is flat out wrong," he said.

Circuit Judge Denny Chin disagreed.

"The government would be in a different position if it had given a different explanation or justification for rescinding," Chin said. "But it gave a reason that, frankly, I don't think makes sense. And so that's why we're in this situation right now." □



# Yellow vests, opponents gearing up for protests in France

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — Thousands of demonstrators will again take to the streets across France this weekend in protest at French president Emmanuel Macron's policies, while anti-yellow vest groups also plan to use street action, to condemn violence.

More than two months after starting their revolt over fuel tax increases, yellow vest protesters remain mobilized and have called for an 11th straight weekend of protests.

About 84,000 people protested last weekend, around the same number as the week before, and despite a slight rise in Macron's approval rates in the latest opinion polls, protesters are expected to turn out in large numbers Saturday. The next day, a demonstration will be organized in Paris by the "Red Scarves," a group created on Facebook denouncing the street violence that has accompanied some yellow vest protests. About 2,000 people have been injured since last November as demonstrations often descended into violence with clashes between police and yellow vests.

Ten people have also been killed in road incidents



**In this Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018 file picture, a demonstrator waves the French flag onto a burning barricade on the Champs-Elysees avenue with the Arc de Triomphe in background, during a demonstration against the rising of the fuel taxes, in Paris, France.**

since the protests started on Nov. 17.

The No. 2 Interior Ministry official, Laurent Nunez, said Friday that police will "systematically intervene" to stop violence and eventual pillaging "always with the same firmness to quickly re-establish order."

Police armed with guns firing non-lethal rubber balls — which have seriously injured a number of demonstrators — also will be equipped with body cameras in an experiment

to record use of the weapons, providing context and eventual evidence if needed, Nunez said.

Responding to controversy over the weapons, referred to as LBDs, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner announced plans for body cameras earlier this week to try to quell concerns.

The counter-demonstration on Sunday indicated that some citizens are growing weary of the yellow vest protests that have had a wide-ranging impact on

France. "It's like if we were experiencing an attempted coup where people want to depose the president, or the National Assembly to be dissolved," Laurent Soulie, one of the organizers, told the RMC channel.

"This is a march to defend our freedom, and to ask for the end of violence." Macron's party "Republic On The Move" has opted against attending the march, but some of its members have said they

will take to the streets anyway. Meanwhile, Macron has intensified his commitment to the national debate — his idea of a three-month scan of the country punctuated with meetings across France that he hopes will help him appease the social anger. Macron has already canceled a fuel tax hike and released other funds to help French workers. He is still facing a long list of demands ranging from the re-introduction of France's wealth tax on the country's richest people to the implementation of popular votes that would allow citizens to propose new laws.

On Thursday, Macron traveled to the southern Drome department where he made an unannounced visit to take part in a local debate in the presence of dozens of residents.

Confronted by a yellow vest activist questioning his legitimacy, Macron said he would not give in to pressure from the street.

"I can't accept a system in which people are proud not to vote, then when they disagree block roundabouts.

This is not democracy," Macron said, referring to the many road blockades set up by protesters over the past two months. □

## 47 migrants stranded off Sicily as Italy refuses entry

By **COLLEEN BARRY**

**Associated Press**

**MILAN (AP)** — Italy pressured the Netherlands on Friday to accept 47 migrants, including eight unaccompanied minors, who have spent seven days at sea aboard a humanitarian rescue ship that has been allowed to enter Italian territorial waters due to bad weather conditions.

The German aid group Sea-Watch tweeted that it has received no response to multiple requests for the Dutch-flagged Sea Watch-3 vessel carrying people rescued off Libya on Saturday to access a port. The boat was permit-



**An Italian Coast Guard patroller flanks the Sea-Watch rescue ship off the Sicilian coast where it found shelter, about one nautical mile from Siracusa, from gale winds sweeping the Sicilian Channel, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

ted to enter Italian waters Friday because of deteriorating weather conditions, and the Italian coast guard said it just off Syracuse, Sicily, flanked by coast guard and financial police boats. Italy and Malta, the closest EU nations, have both refused to allow entry to rescue vessels operated by humanitarian groups in what they say is a bid to discourage smuggler boats from departing Libya by diminishing the prospect of rescue.

Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini told reporters in Rome that he sent a letter to the government in the Netherlands officially re-

questing that they organize landings for the migrants "aboard this vessel that waves a Dutch flag."

Dutch Migration Minister Mark Harbers said that without the prospect of such a comprehensive solution to how to process migrants rescued at sea that the Netherlands "will not take part in ad-hoc measures." He added that the ship flying the Dutch flag doesn't oblige the Netherlands to take action. European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker's spokesman said that the commission is in touch with member states, and was watching the events closely. □



# Greek lawmakers ratify Macedonia name-change deal

By ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek lawmakers ratified an agreement Friday to end a nearly three decade-long dispute over neighboring Macedonia's name, in a landmark vote that will see the small country renamed North Macedonia and clear its path to NATO membership.

The deal passed with 153 votes in the 300-member parliament, two more than the minimum needed. It has faced fierce opposition in both countries, and recently cost Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras his parliamentary majority after a small right-wing party quit the governing coalition in protest. It passed with the support of independent lawmakers.

Tsipras' left-wing Syriza party holds 145 seats in parliament, six short of a majority. "Today is a historic day," Tsipras said. "Greece is safeguarding an important part of its history, its heritage of ancient Greek Macedonia. Today we are writing a new page for the Balkans."

Under the Prespa Agreement — dubbed after the



Holding a flag with the Star of Vergina, the emblem of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia and Alexander the Great, an opponent of Prespa Agreement attends a rally in the northern port city of Thessaloniki, Greece, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

border lake where it was signed last June — Macedonia changes its name to North Macedonia, and Greece drops its objections to the country joining NATO and eventually the European Union.

With the Greek parliament's endorsement, the agreement is almost complete although some procedural steps remain, including Greece signing its

northern neighbor's NATO accession protocol.

"Congratulations my friend Alexi Tsipras, together with our peoples we reached a historical victory," Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev tweeted.

The Macedonian government issued a statement congratulating the people of both countries. "The Balkans, Europe and the world have received a new mod-

el for building friendships and cooperation between nations and states," it said. The deal's passage was quickly welcomed by both NATO and the European Union.

Friday's vote was "an important contribution to the stability and prosperity of the whole region," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg tweeted. "I look forward to the future

Associated Press

Republic of North Macedonia joining NATO."

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also praised Greece, saying the agreement would help promote reconciliation efforts in Europe and beyond.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said Guterres looks forward to completing the process outlined in the agreement, which was negotiated under U.N. auspices.

The ratification came after three days of acrimonious parliamentary debate and numerous street protests, some of which turned violent. A rally last Sunday saw tens of thousands of people gather outside parliament, with clashes erupting between groups of demonstrators and riot police. Torrential rain and driving wind kept many protesters away on the final day of the debate. Scores of demonstrators who braved the weather conditions outside parliament chanted "traitors" as lawmakers voted inside.

Top EU officials said the agreement's approval has "written a new page of our common EU future." □

# Rescue for trapped Spanish boy reaches critical hours

By ARITZ PARRA

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Rescue crews in Spain appeared to be centimeters of rock away late Friday from the space where a 2-year-old boy is believed to be trapped underground after falling into a borehole 12 days ago.

Julen Rosello fell down the narrow 110-meter-deep borehole (360-foot) on Jan. 13 while his family was preparing a countryside Sunday lunch.

His parents had another young son who died in 2017, Spanish newspaper El Pais reported.

The tragic accident in Malaga province gripped Spaniards from day one and the country has followed closely every turn



In this photo taken on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, drill and excavating machinery work on top of the mountain next to a deep borehole to reach a 2-year-old boy trapped there for twelve days near the town of Totalan in Malaga, Spain.

Associated Press

of an extremely complex and frequently hampered search-and-rescue mission. The dry waterhole, only 25-centimeters in diameter,

is too narrow for an adult to get into and hardened soil and rock blocked equipment from progressing to the place two-thirds of the

way down where Julen is thought to be.

Officials have been trying to create alternative routes to the toddler.

A series of small explosions set off since Thursday afternoon, including a fourth one late Friday, helped workers dig most of a 3.8-meter-long horizontal tunnel to the cavity.

The tunnel is some 70-meters underground, and a vertical shaft had to be drilled over the past few days to bring miners and rescue experts up and down during the painstaking engineering feat.

Jorge Martin, a spokesman with the Malaga province Civil Guard, said the most recent controlled explosion was needed to complete the last 45 centimeters.

"This controlled micro-explosion needs to be extremely precise due to the proximity to the place where Julen supposedly is," Martin told reporters at the site.

The only sign of the toddler found so far is hair that matched his DNA, but officials have refused to comment on whether he could have survived so long.

In one of the few media interviews the child's parents have given, father Jose Rosello said the family was "heartbroken" by the long wait but hoping for "a miracle."

El Pais reported that the couple lost Julen's older brother, Oliver, when the 3-year-old suffered a heart attack during a walk on the beach two years ago. □



# Erdogan: Turkey can go it alone to establish Syria safe zone

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY

Associated Press

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Turkey's president warned on Friday that Ankara can go it alone in establishing a safe zone in northeastern Syria if talks with Washington on the issue fail to produce results. Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would not "wait forever" to set up the so-called safe zone east of the Euphrates River in Syria. Ankara wants Syrian Kurdish militia to withdraw from there and Erdogan has been seeking logistical and financial assistance from the U.S. in this.

Turkey has pushed for the creation of a 32-kilometer (20-mile) zone to serve as a buffer and ensure that the Syrian Kurdish militia — The People's Protection Units, or YPG, which Turkey considers to be a terrorist group for its ties to outlawed Kurdish rebels inside Turkey — is kept away from the Turkish border after U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria. The details of the planned pullout of some 2,000 American troops remain unclear. The Syrian Kurds have been a key U.S. ally. The YPG



**Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivers a speech during a military academy ceremony in Ankara, Turkey, Thursday Jan. 24, 2019.**

is the main component of the Syrian Democratic Forces, which rolled back the Islamic State group from wide parts of Syria with the help of the U.S.-led coalition.

Turkey has threatened to launch a new military offensive against the Syrian Kurdish forces while the U.S. has warned it would protect its Kurdish allies and cautioned Turkey against

such an operation.

In a call earlier this month, Erdogan and President Donald Trump discussed the possibility of the safe zone in an apparent effort to reduce tensions. Turkish and U.S. defense officials have been assessing plans. On Friday, Turkey's Defense Minister Hulusi Akar met with Trump's envoy for Syria, James Jeffrey, and asked that the U.S. "end its

Associated Press

relationship with the terror organization YPG" and ensure the group's withdrawal from Manbij, a key town in northern Syria.

Erdogan said Turkey must have control in the safe zone and added: "We are closed to all solution proposals other than this."

Erdogan earlier this week met Russian President Vladimir Putin as Moscow signaled it could be open for

discussions about the Turkish push for carving out a safe zone. However, Moscow argued for the Syrian government to take over areas currently controlled by the U.S. and Kurdish forces.

Also Friday, the U.S.-led coalition said it is investigating a potential incident involving civilian casualties in areas of fighting with IS in Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour bordering Iraq. The statement said the incident happened on Jan. 22 and that the coalition "takes all allegations of civilian casualties seriously and investigates each incident reported through any means." Syrian state media and opposition activists have reported several airstrikes that they blamed on the U.S.-led coalition, saying scores of people were killed over the past weeks. The DeirEzzor 24, an activist collective, said a U.S.-led coalition airstrike killed several civilians as they were fleeing the eastern village of Baghouz near Iraq's border. The Syrian Democratic Forces later captured the village from IS. □

# Gaza man dies at rally; Palestinian teen killed in West Bank

By FARES AKRAM

Associated Press

**GAZA, Gaza Strip (AP)** — Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian man in Gaza as thousands took part Friday in a protest along the border, fueled in part by Hamas' rejection of Qatari cash aid after what the militant group says were Israeli delays in transferring the funds.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian teen and wounded another as a group of young men hurled stones at the troops. The infusion of \$15 million from Qatar would have been used to pay civil servants in the Hamas-ruled strip but the militant group on Thursday declined to accept the funds. In turn, Qatar said Friday it was re-directing the money to U.N. humanitarian projects in



**Palestinian medics move a wounded youth, who was shot by Israeli troops during a protest at the Gaza Strip's border with Israel, into the treatment room of Shifa hospital in Gaza City, Friday Jan. 25, 2019.**

Gaza.

Hamas also vowed to escalate the weekly demonstrations, which it has organized since last March to highlight the strip's dire economic conditions, exacerbated by more than a decade of Israeli-Egyptian

blockade.

Hamas opposes Israel's existence; Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent Hamas from arming its fighters.

The Hamas-run health ministry said Ehab Abed, 25, was critically shot on Friday in

the chest along the fence east of the town of Rafah in southern Gaza Strip and died soon afterward.

At least 22 other Palestinians were wounded by gunfire, including 14 minors, at several locations along the fence, it said.

The protesters burned tires and threw rocks and firebombs toward the heavily guarded fence. Along with live fire, Israeli forces also fired tear gas.

Israel approved on Thursday the delivery of the third installment of Qatari cash infusion but only after two weeks of postponement, prompting an embarrassed and cash-strapped Hamas to reject the funds.

Qatar had pledged a \$90-million package to help Hamas pay long overdue wages for its civil servants for six months.

Israel hopes the money

would ease the deadly demonstrations.

Over 185 Palestinians have been killed in the marches, including two journalists and three medics, and thousands have been wounded.

Responding to international criticism for using lethal force, Israel says that Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, is using the protests as a cover to carry out cross-border attacks.

In the West Bank, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that Israeli troops killed a Palestinian teenager near the city of Ramallah.

The Israeli military told The Associated Press that soldiers shot at a group of teenagers throwing rocks toward the troops, killing a 16-year-old boy and wounding another. □





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## Japan court upholds sterilization to register gender change

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — Human rights and LGBT activists on Friday denounced a ruling by Japan's Supreme Court upholding a law that effectively requires transgender people to be sterilized before they can have their gender changed on official documents.

The court said the law is constitutional because it was meant to reduce confusion in families and society. But it acknowledged that it restricts freedom and could become out of step with changing social values.

The 2004 law states that people wishing to register a gender change must have their original reproductive organs, including testes or ovaries, removed and have a body that "appears to have parts that resemble the genital organs" of the gender they want to register.

More than 7,800 Japanese have had their genders officially changed, according to Justice Ministry statistics cited by public broadcaster NHK.



In this Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, photo, Takakito Usui, a transgender man, cries while speaking during a press conference after Japan's Supreme Court handed down in Okayama, western Japan.

Associated Press

The unanimous decision by a four-judge panel, published Thursday, rejected an appeal by Takakito Usui, a transgender man who said forced sterilization violates the right to self-determination and is unconstitutional.

Usui, 45, appealed to the top court after he unsuccessfully requested that lower courts grant him legal recognition as male without having his female reproductive glands surgically removed.

Despite the unanimous decision, presiding justice Mamoru Miura joined another justice in saying that while the law may not violate the constitution, "doubts are undeniably emerging," according to Usui's lawyer, Tomoyasu Oyama.

The two judges proposed regular reviews of the law and appropriate measures "from the viewpoint of respect for personality and individuality," according to

Japanese media reports.

Japan is one of many countries with a sterilization requirement. In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights said 22 of the countries under its jurisdiction still required sterilization as part of a legal gender change, and it ordered them to end the practice.

Maria Sjodin, deputy executive director of Out-Right Action International, which monitors LGBT rights issues worldwide, said she was unsure if all 22 of those countries have fully implemented the court's order. She noted that Sweden, which did away with the requirement in 2013, later became the first country to pay damages to anyone forced to undergo sterilization as a requirement for gender change.

The Japanese Supreme Court decision ends Usui's legal battle, but he and his lawyer said the opinions in the ruling left them with hope.

"I think the ruling could lead to a next step," Usui told a news conference.

Human Rights Watch said the Supreme Court ruling

was "incompatible with international human rights standards, goes against the times and deviates far from best global practices." The New York-based group said the ruling tolerates grave human rights violations against transgender people.

The ruling was also criticized by Japan's LGBT community.

A transgender activist and writer, Tomato Hatakeno, tweeted that the decision shows that society's interests still come before an individual's right to freedom regarding one's body.

"The ruling suggests that reproductive health is not recognized as a basic human right," she said.

There is a growing awareness of sexual diversity in Japan, but it is often superficial and generally limited to the entertainment industry. In a country where pressure for conformity is strong, many gay people hide their sexuality even from their families because of a fear of prejudice at home, school or work. Obstacles remain high for transgender people. □

## India, South Africa to boost defense ties, trade

Associated Press

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — India and South Africa will boost ties in key areas such as defense, maritime security, information technology and trade under a three-year strategic exchange program, their leaders said Friday.

The plan was announced by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting South African President Cyril Ramaphosa after they met in New Delhi.

Two-way trade is expected



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, shakes hand with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, before a delegation level meeting in New Delhi, India, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

to rise to \$10.65 billion in 2018-19 from \$9.38 billion in 2017-18.

India's External Affairs Ministry said the South African defense industry is also looking at India, which is upgrading its military equipment.

India's Defense Ministry lifted a ban last year on South Africa's state-owned aerospace and military technology conglomerate Denel SOC Ltd. after investigators found no evidence to back bribery allegations.

The company was blacklisted 13 years ago for allegedly paying bribes to a company to secure deals to supply the Indian army with rifles and ammunition. Ramaphosa will be the chief guest on Saturday at India's Republic Day parade, which celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of its constitution in 1950. India had first invited U.S. President Donald Trump to attend, but U.S. officials declined, citing a scheduling issue. □



# Dueling Venezuela leaders dig in defending presidency claims

By **SCOTT SMITH**  
**JOSHUA GOODMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— The Venezuelan opposition leader who has declared himself interim president appeared in public Friday for the first time in days and vowed to remain on the streets to usher in a transitional government, while President Nicolas Maduro dug in and accused his opponents of orchestrating a coup.

In one of the dueling press conferences, Juan Guaido urged thousands of supporters gathered in a Caracas plaza to hold a mass protest again next week as he moves forward with proposals of amnesty for military leaders and the arrival of humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, Maduro spoke at the same time before a room of journalists and decried what he called a coup against his government.

Each man appeared ready to defend his claim to the presidency no matter the cost, with Guaido telling his followers that if he is arrested then they should “stay the course” and peacefully protest for change.

“As the famous phrase goes, ‘You can cut the flower but you cannot keep spring from coming,’” Guaido said.

The troubled South American nation has plunged into a new chapter of political turmoil this week after tens of thousands of Venezuelans frustrated with their nation’s crippling economic and humanitarian crisis took to the streets demanding Maduro step down in a rally of support for Guaido as he took a symbolic oath to become the interim president.

U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet’s office said Friday that it had credible reports that security forces or members of pro-government armed groups had shot at least 20 people during protests on Tuesday and Wednesday. It called for an investigation into the violence. The nonprofit Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict has said

gunfire during protests and looting left 21 dead between Wednesday and early Thursday.

ways I am committed to dialogue,” Maduro said. Besides the U.S., Canada, much of Latin America and

last decade, China has given Venezuela \$65 billion in loans, cash and investment. Venezuela owes

itary to drop its allegiance to Maduro.

Wilmer Guaido, a taxi driver on the island of Tenerife, told private Antena 3 television Friday that Venezuela’s armed forces should be loyal to the country, but not to a specific leader.

“(Simon) Bolivar used to curse against soldiers who give their back to the people,” Guaido said, referring to Venezuela’s independence hero. “I think the military should choose the right side of history.”

Juan Guaido has said he needs the backing of three key groups: The people, the international community and the military. While Thursday’s protest drew tens of thousands to the streets and over a dozen nations in the region pledged support, the military’s backing is crucial.

Although many rank-and-file troops suffer the same hardships as countless other Venezuelans when it comes to basic needs like feeding their families, Maduro has worked to cement their support with bonuses and other special benefits. In a video earlier this week, Guaido said the constitution requires the military to disavow Maduro after his May 2018 re-election, which was widely condemned by the international community because his main opponents were banned from running.

But there were no signs that security forces were widely heeding Guaido’s call to go easy on demonstrators. Many Venezuelans are awaiting Guaido’s guidance on the often-beleaguered opposition’s next steps.

A virtually unknown lawmaker at the start of the year, Guaido has reignited opposition hopes by taking a rebellious tack amid Venezuela’s crushing economic crisis. He escalated his campaign Wednesday by declaring the constitution gives him, as president of the congress, the authority to take over as interim president and form a transitional government until he calls new elections. □



**Opposition leader Juan Guaido speaks to supporters at a public plaza in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

The Trump administration quickly recognized Guaido, and a defiant Maduro announced he was breaking ties with the United States hours later, accusing the American leader of meddling in Venezuela’s affairs. Some U.S. diplomats began exiting Venezuela on Friday. Maduro has also called home all Venezuelan diplomats from the U.S. and closed its embassy in Washington Thursday.

Backed by Venezuela’s military, Maduro has refused to show any hint he’s ready to cede power, setting up a potentially explosive struggle, though he said Friday that he remains open to talking with the opposition. The government and opposition held talks that fell apart last year, with the opposition saying they would only agree to an accord allowing a fair election.

The election last year was criticized by much of the international community because Maduro’s most popular opponents were barred from running and it lacked basic guarantees like a team of impartial observers.

“Today, tomorrow and al-

many countries in Europe have thrown their support behind Guaido. Trump has promised to use the “full weight” of U.S. economic and diplomatic power to push for the restoration of Venezuela’s democracy. Russia, China, Iran, Syria, Cuba and Turkey have voiced their backing for Maduro’s government.

Maduro has been increasingly accused of undemocratic behavior by his opponents and has presided over skyrocketing inflation, a collapsing economy and widespread shortages of basic goods.

China’s Foreign Ministry called on the U.S. to stay out of the crisis, while Russia’s deputy foreign minister warned the U.S. against any military intervention in Venezuela. Alexei Pushkov, chairman of the information committee at the Russian Federation Council, called Guaido’s declaration “an attempted coup” backed by the U.S.

Russia has been propping up Maduro with arms and loans. Maduro visited Moscow in December, seeking Russia’s political and financial support. Over the

more than \$20 billion.

At an emergency meeting Thursday, 16 nations from the Organization of American States recognized Guaido as interim president. But the International Monetary Fund has said it will follow the position of its member states, which have come down on both sides of the question.

Attention was focused on Venezuela’s military, a traditional arbiter of political disputes in the country, as a critical indicator of whether the opposition will succeed in setting up a new government. Venezuela’s military brass pledged unwavering support to Maduro, delivering vows of loyalty Thursday before rows of green-uniformed officers on state television.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, a key Maduro ally, dismissed efforts to install a “de-facto parallel government” as tantamount to a coup.

“It’s not a war between Venezuelans that will solve our problems,” he said. “It’s dialogue.”

Guaido’s father, who has lived in Spain for the last 16 years, has called on the mil-



## LOCAL



## Your Best Friend: the Cop



**SAVANETA** — It was the best birthday he could have had. Edric Geerman, who turned 6, dreams of being a police officer when he grows up. Aruba Today, where his mama is working, asked the police to surprise him on his special day last Thursday. “No problem at all, we will pass by,” was the answer by the friendly officers Hodge and Petrona. The Aruba Police Corps is very open towards community service — an important part of their many tasks.

Edrik and his brother Etrick (7) clearly enjoyed the officers' attention and even had the opportunity to wear their caps for a moment. Liliana Rasmijn, the spokeswoman of the Police Corps Aruba explains to Aruba Today about the multitasking of the approximately 500 employees within the corps. “We are here to maintain the public order, to guarantee the safety of the people and to control traffic. We also give high priority to crime prevention and public information.” In the light of the latter, the police visit

schools to give lectures and they also give attention to youth that are facing problems like drop-out, drugs and family crises.

“Once a week police officers visit the childrens home Imeldahof and the orthopedagogical center to talk with the children. They are already in a difficult situation, so it matters to keep them on track and focus on the right choices in life.”

**Tips for You**

Rasmijn has some advice especially for our visitors. “Please be careful in traffic as rules may differ from your home country. For example here we use the left roadway to pass the cars on the right roadway. Also many times the roundabouts cause confusion. The system is European and just to be safe please check out our videos on our Facebook page Korps Politie Aruba to get an idea.” Another

issue she addresses is the unfortunate fact that there are persons trying to sell drugs at tourist spots. “Please know that all drugs are illegal here, including marihuana. You will be arrested and taken to the police post where you will need to pay a fine.” Another tip for our appreciated visitors is not to leave any valuables visible in the cars while visiting the beach or any other place. “Do not tempt thieves to break into

your car and take your stuff. It would be a downer on your vacation.” The Aruba Police Corps was founded in 1986. To become a police officer one will need to attend the Police Academy on the island for four years. Our police uses bicycles, quads, cars, motor cycles and go by foot to serve the community. For more information please check the Facebook page Korps Politie Aruba. □





## ARUBA RESORT TOPS IN THE WORLD PER TRIPADVISOR®

# Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort also receives three No. 1 awards



**EAGLE BEACH – When it comes to romance, TripAdvisor® knows the perfect match is Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. The world's largest travel site just announced the winners of the 2019 Travelers' Choice Awards. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is named among the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World – the only Caribbean property to make the World list. Additionally, for the fourth year in a row, Bucuti & Tara is also named the No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean.**

Completing these honors, Bucuti & Tara is also No. 1 in the Top 25 Hotels in the Caribbean and its signature hospitality is No. 1 for the Top 25 Hotels for Service in the Caribbean.

The Eagle Beach resort provides the perfect setting for couples from around the world. Romance concierges help couples curate their idea of a perfect vacation. From special island outings and private beachfront dining to custom wellness itineraries and adventurous experiences. The adults-only resort is a peaceful haven of laidback luxury that has carefully resulted from years of listening to what resort guests are truly seeking at their favorite vacation resort. Keeping the romance fresh includes Bucuti's commitment to constant self-improvement. This past year the resort became the Caribbean's first certified carbon neutral resort providing guests with a guiltfree vacation that's as healthy for them as it is for the planet. Addition-



ally, the resort completed its latest reinvestment initiative resulting in a sleek new arrival experience. With a sophisticated new entrance complete with a Champagne service bar and concierge lobby, guests are immediately greeted by their private concierge and checked-in while being whisked directly to their room so vacation can begin without waiting at a front desk.

The winners are based on millions of reviews submitted in the past year from TripAdvisor users worldwide. Marking its 17th year of these awards, TripAdvisor has recognized 7,812 properties in 94 countries. The hallmarks of Travelers' Choice hotels winners are remarkable quality, service and value. "We congratulate the properties around the world recognized as the best hotels, which receive our highest honor – Travelers' Choice Hotel awards," said Desirée Fish, vice president of global communications for TripAdvisor. "Travelers can consider these award winners when picking the perfect hotel for their needs – for any budget or trip type – to help inspire their travels in 2019."

"Being named by TripAdvisor as one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World and the No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean for the fourth straight year is a phenomenal reflection of our dedicated Bucuti associates who help every guest experience the most memorable vacation," says Ewald Biemans, owner and CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. "We thank TripAdvisor for the honor of representing Aruba on the world stage." □

### About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first CarbonNeutral® hotel in the Caribbean in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World, No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean, No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean (fourth straight year) and No. 1 Hotel for Service in the Caribbean. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of the Year. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World."

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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are the lovely couple Mr. Herbert and Mrs. Zelda Baron from Massachusetts USA.

This lovely couple love everything about Aruba specially the 'Aruban People'.

Boekhoudt together with the Ms. Gloria Defoe of the Guest Relations Services of the Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □





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## Efficient & Secure Border Control



**ORANJESTAD** — Last year, RADEX Border Control Management System (BCMS), was launched at the airport in Aruba in order to ensure a safe, reliable and effective border control. RADEX BCMS is a complete border control management system, which features the latest hardware and software for multi-biometric capture and search capabilities.

The key features of RADEX include first-stage processing, which involves in depth evaluation of passports validity, checks against stolen passport databases, multiple wanted lists, and any other database a country desires; second-stage processing, which includes multi-biometric search and enrollment; reporting; security; and administration. The developer of RADEX BCMS, Gamma IT Solutions, is proud to announce that RADEX BCMS now features Portable Units. Portable

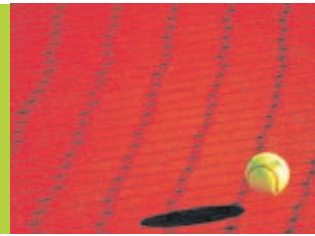


Units are units that can be carried on locations without network connections and are thus ideal to use on ports, vessels and vehicles to perform complete first stage processing. Travel documents can be read and authenticated very quickly and the individuals can be verified against several wanted lists and

governmental databases. When reconnecting to the system all data will be updated in the database. With the Portable Units, RADEX BCMS ensures that the border control of the country remains efficient and secure on any location. For more information about RADEX BCMS, go to [www.radexbcms.com](http://www.radexbcms.com). □



# SPORTS



Nashville Predators defenseman P.K. Subban (76) reacts during the second period of the team's NHL hockey game against the Vegas Golden Knights on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

## P.K. Subban hosting TV special All-Star Skills competition

By TERESA M. WALKER  
AP Sports Writer

Nashville Predators defenseman P.K. Subban has found a way to go beyond his more than 1.1 million followers on Twitter and 844,000 more on Instagram.

He's hitting national television. The 2013 Norris Trophy winner will host "P.K. Subban's All-Star Special" Friday night on NBC Sports Network airing immediately after the NHL All-Star Skills competition, and Subban is ready to have some fun. "It allows me to have a platform to be able to talk about things that I care about," Subban told The Associated Press on Thursday. "It's not all about me with the guests that we have coming on and I guess some of the promo that we give certain players and athletes and people that I'm involved with. I think it's a benefit not only for me but for everybody involved."

Continued on Page 22



# NINE BALL

## Curry scores 38, Warriors beat Wizards for 9th straight win

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards forward Otto Porter Jr. (22) and guard Tomas Satoransky during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press  
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# 53rd matchup for Djokovic, Nadal in Australian Open final

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— It was fascinating to hear Novak Djokovic explain what it will be like to face Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final.

"The intensity that he brings on the court is immense," Djokovic said. "Without a doubt, probably the most intense tennis player that I have witnessed and played against."

Hmmm.

"It makes you be alert, so to say, from the very first point," Djokovic said. "He doesn't allow you to kind of ease your way into the match."

All sounds rather similar to the way someone might describe competing against Djokovic.

When the No. 1-ranked Djokovic and No. 2 Nadal meet Sunday night at Rod Laver Arena for the tournament championship, there will be differences, right down to the most obvious: Djokovic is a righty, Nadal a lefty. The similarities are far more compelling, among them an ability to go from suffocating defense to "How did he put the ball there?!" offense by aggressively staking out territory at the baseline, and an unwavering commitment to playing every point with full effort and desire, as though the ultimate outcome of the match hinged on each racket swing.

This matchup is their 53rd, the most between two men the professional era. Djokovic leads 27-25.

It is their 26th on a hard court. Djokovic leads 18-7. It is their 15th at a major, equaling the record. Nadal leads 9-5.

It is their eighth in a Grand Slam final. Nadal leads 4-3. It is their second in an Australian Open final. Djokovic won a five-setter in 2012 that lasted 5 hours, 53 minutes, the longest Slam final ever.

"Nadal has historically, throughout my life and career, been the greatest rival that I ever played against, on all the surfaces.



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after defeating Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019; and Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating France's Lucas Pouille in their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

Associated Press



Some matches that we had against each other were a great turning point in my career. I feel they have made me rethink my game," Djokovic said.

"I had some disappointing moments where I lost to him. ... I won, also, some great matches.

Those kind of encounters have also made me the player I am today, without a doubt," the 31-year-old Serb said. "These are the kind of matches that you live for, finals of Slams, playing the greatest rivals at their best. What more can you ask for?"

Djokovic is to collect a record seventh Australian Open title, breaking a tie with Roy Emerson and Roger Federer.

That would lift his Grand Slam haul to 15, pushing Djokovic one ahead of Pete Sampras.

The only men with more? Federer is at 20, Nadal at 17. For Nadal, this represents a chance to cut into Federer's lead and become the third man with at least two championships at each major. The 32-year-old Spaniard's previous title in Australia came in 2009; he's lost three other finals, while Djokovic is 6-0.

Both were outstanding in the semifinals. Nadal beat 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; Djokovic defeated 24-year-old Lucas Pouille 6-0, 6-2, 6-2.

Tsitsipas on Nadal: "Just has a talent to make you play bad." Pouille on Djokovic:

"Not so many players can beat him, for sure. Maybe one or two."

He put Nadal in that category, and it's easy to see why. A tweaked serve and that lasso of a forehand are making Nadal as dangerous as ever; he hasn't dropped a set in Melbourne.

And to think: He is coming off a series of injuries on unforgiving hard courts.

Nadal retired from his Australian Open quarterfinal last year because of a right leg problem; stopped again during his U.S. Open semifinal in September with pain in his right knee; had offseason surgery on his right ankle; pulled out of a tuneup tournament this month because of a both-

ersome thigh. He was rusty. He acknowledged being a "little bit worried" because of "issue after issue." "After four, five months without action at all," Nadal said, "then, of course, you know that you can come here and anything can happen, no?"

Djokovic dealt with his own health scare: A sore right elbow that cost him the last half of 2017 and contributed to a fourth-round loss in Melbourne a year ago before he had an operation. Like Nadal, Djokovic is once again at the top of his game.

They're ready to resume their rivalry.

"Hopefully," Djokovic said, "we're all going to have a good time." □



# Warriors win 9th straight behind Curry's 38 points



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry gestures during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, in Washington. The Warriors won 126-118.

**By The Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Stephen Curry scored 38 points, local product Kevin Durant had 21 and the Golden State Warriors hammered the ball inside to beat the Washington Wizards 126-118 Thursday night for their season-high ninth consecutive victory. The two-time defending NBA champions put up 70 points in the paint after shooting 1 of 6 from the outside in the first quarter. Curry was at the forefront of Golden State's drive-the-paint strategy as he made just two of his eight 3-point attempts and was

12 of 16 inside the arc. Durant, from nearby Suitland, Maryland, was 9 of 18 from the floor. Center DeMarcus Cousins had 17 points in 24 minutes in his third game with the Warriors since missing almost a full year with a ruptured left Achilles tendon. Cousins was a matchup nightmare in the post against Washington, which went with a small lineup for most of the night. Trevor Ariza led the Wizards with a season-high 27 points and Bradley Beal had 22 points as their two-game winning streak came to an end.

Associated Press

## MLB urges players, staff not to travel to Venezuela

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Baseball is recommending in the "strongest terms" that players and staff not travel to Venezuela for the Caribbean Series, which is to start Feb. 2.

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido declared he was temporarily assuming presidential powers in a bid to unseat Nicolas Maduro. President Donald Trump this week supported Guaido's claim to power. Maduro called home all Venezuelan diplomats from the U.S. and closed its embassy in Washington.

MLB says in a statement Friday the commissioner's office is "actively seeking advice on the political, legal, and safety implications of this still-developing situation, and we will inform clubs of any effects as soon as they become clear."

MLB adds: "In the meantime, we advise club personnel in the strongest terms to immediately cease travel to Venezuela for any reason." □

**THUNDER 122, PELICANS 116**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Russell Westbrook posted his NBA-leading 15th triple-double of the season and the Thunder beat the injury-depleted New Orleans Pelicans.

Westbrook finished with 23 points, 17 rebounds and 16 assists for the 119th triple-double of his career. The Thunder improved to 10-5 this season when he gets one.

Paul George had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Steven Adams added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won its fourth straight.

The Pelicans were without star center Anthony Davis, who missed his third straight game with a left index finger sprain, and the team announced Thursday that Nikola Mirotic will be out at least a week with a right calf strain.

Jrue Holiday scored 22 points and Darius Miller matched a career high with 21 for New Orleans, which has lost four of five.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 120, SUNS 106**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Damian Lillard scored 24 points, CJ McCollum and Jake Layman added 20 apiece and the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away in the second half to hand the short-handed Suns their sixth straight loss.

The Trail Blazers beat Phoenix for the ninth straight time. Portland has won four of five and eight of 11 overall.

Devin Booker scored 27 points for the Suns, but only nine after the first quarter. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 18 on 6-of-18 shooting.

Dragan Bender, forced into the starting center role due to injuries, had 17.

The Suns were without rookie center Deandre Ayton (sprained left ankle) and backup Richaun Holmes (right foot sprain) for the third straight game. T.J. Warren also sat out with a sore right ankle, and Suns starting point guard De'Anthony Melton left in the third quarter with a

sprained right ankle.

**TIMBERWOLVES 120, LAKERS 105**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 12 rebounds to help Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Andrew Wiggins added 23 points and Jerryd Bayless scored 16 off the bench for the Timberwolves, who have won three straight.

Rajon Rondo had 15 points, 13 assists and six rebounds in his first game since injuring a finger on Christmas, but the Lakers lost their third in a row.

Brandon Ingram had 20 points and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 13. LeBron James missed his 15th consecutive game because of a groin strain. □

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# APNewsBreak: Clark retiring after 20 years in the halfpipe

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP National Writer

**DENVER (AP)** — What was perhaps Kelly Clark's most memorable trip down a halfpipe had nothing to do with winning.

It was the Winter X Games in 2011. Clark had already secured the title. With one lap left — a victory lap, as they call it in snowboarding — she decided to try something no woman had ever done. She became the first to land a 1080 — that's twisting three revolutions above the halfpipe — in competition.

The move summed up the essence of what the greats do for snowboarding. As much as winning, they are about pushing the sport to new levels. And often their biggest competition is the person looking back at them in the mirror.

At peace with her role in cementing that mindset into snowboarding, the five-time Olympian, who dominated her sport while ushering in the Olympic era, has decided to retire. "At some times in my career, days that might not have included my best snowboarding led to some of my greatest victories," the 35-year-old Clark told The Associated Press. "This sport has always been about more than just winning and losing."



In this Feb. 12, 2018, file photo, Kelly Clark competes in the women's halfpipe qualifying at Phoenix Snow Park at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

But there's been plenty of winning along the way: A gold medal in her Olympic debut. Two bronze. Five X Games titles. Nine more at the U.S. Open. A total of 78 victories and 137 trips onto the podium spanning a career that began 20 years ago, back when the halfpipes were handmade and only about half the size of the 22-foot behemoths that challenge the riders in today's pro game.

In 2001, Clark was a fresh-faced teenager from

Vermont whose parents had indulged her dream — maybe a fantasy — to shred down halfpipes with the hopes of making it big someday. She had no real expectations, and the thought of making the Olympics the next year seemed far-flung.

Over the span of a few weeks, that all changed. Clark figured out the Mc-Twist — an avant-garde trick of that era that involves 1 ½ spins while holding the edge of the board

with one hand — and started winning Olympic qualifiers. In February 2002, she became the first American to win an Olympic snowboarding gold medal.

"The ultimate peak at the ultimate time," she called it.

But it didn't necessarily lead to happiness. In the aftermath, Clark became consumed in a world of too much pressure, too many commitments, not enough fun. In an interview last winter, her coach, Rick Bow-

er, recalled that he "kept wondering, does she want to keep doing this?"

"You're young, you win gold, you think life is going to be easy and you're all set, and it wasn't," said Burton CEO Donna Carpenter, the wife of the company's founder, Jake Burton. "That's when she realized it wasn't about winning but more about finding her own measure of success and progressing the sport." Clark's bronze medals in 2010 in Vancouver, then again four years later in Sochi, both came after hard falls that made her question whether she could do it. Last year, she finished fourth in Pyeongchang, but even making it to South Korea was a minor miracle given the brutal crash she endured weeks earlier at the X Games in Aspen.

Reflecting last year on some of those mishaps, she said "sometimes you value things based on what they cost you."

Though she's saying goodbye to competition, Clark will remain involved in the sport, mainly through Burton, the snowboard maker that has backed her career through thick and thin. She's designed an environmentally friendly snowboard for women called The Rise that will go into limited production. □

Associated Press

## Ravens coach John Harbaugh gets new 4-year deal



In this Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 file photo, Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh walks on the sideline in the first half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Baltimore.

Associated Press

By **DAVID GINSBURG**  
AP Sports Writer

**OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)** — Ravens coach John Harbaugh has received a new four-year contract following a season in which he guid-

ed Baltimore to the AFC North title. The new deal is designed to keep the winningest coach in Ravens history under contract through the 2022 season. It replaces a pact that was slated to end after next year.

The 56-year-old Harbaugh took over as Ravens coach in 2008. Under his guidance, the team has reached the playoffs seven times and won a Super Bowl. His record in Baltimore is 114-78, including 10-6 in the postseason. Among current NFL coaches, Harbaugh has the fourth-longest tenure in the league.

"I'm very excited with this contract, the opportunity to continue our work here, and I'm humbled by it," Harbaugh said in a statement on the team website. "I am thankful for the support from the Ravens, especially (owner) Steve Bisciotti." The Ravens had gone three straight years without a playoff berth before rallying behind rookie quarterback Lamar Jackson to win the division crown this season with a 10-6

record. Baltimore lost to the Los Angeles Chargers in the wild-card round. Bisciotti ended speculation about Harbaugh's status before the Ravens faced the Chargers on Dec. 22, issuing a release that stated Harbaugh would be back in 2019 and that the sides were working on an extension.

That deal came to fruition late Thursday afternoon. Soon after the Ravens finished their season on Jan. 6, Harbaugh began looking toward next year. He promoted Greg Roman to offensive coordinator and got a jump on the draft at the Senior Bowl. "We're working hard to make the 2019 Ravens the best we can be," Harbaugh said. "We have an excellent team foundation." Harbaugh salvaged the 2018 season by turning toward Jackson, a former Heisman Trophy winner and a first-round pick in the draft. Jackson took over for injured veteran Joe Flacco and maintained the job after Flacco was ready to play. □



# Rahm opens with 62 at Torrey Pines; Woods grinds out 70

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — All the attention was on Tiger Woods and his 2019 debut. Just like the last two occasions, Jon Rahm delivered the best performance.

In ideal conditions even by San Diego standards, Rahm opened with an eagle and kept going lower until he had a 10-under 62 on the North course at Torrey Pines, giving him a one-shot lead over Justin Rose after the opening round Thursday at the Farmers Insurance Open.

"You play the South on the first day, you're trying to survive," Rahm said. "On the North, you've got to start under par to keep up. I kept the pedal down."

Woods was on the tougher South course, where he won his last major, the 2008 U.S. Open. He made three birdies on the back nine for a 70, which he thought could have been lower but found acceptable given that it was his first competition in nearly two months. "I probably could have shot something around 68 or 67 today pretty easily," Woods said. "I hit a lot of good putts that were around the hole that just didn't quite fall in. Overall, shooting a couple under par on the South course is not so bad, but now I'm forced to have to shoot a low one tomorrow just like most of the field did over there today."

Rahm's highlight last year was beating Woods on



Jon Rahm, of Spain, hits from the fairway on the ninth hole during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament on the North Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, in San Diego.

Sunday in the Ryder Cup during a European victory in France. He ended the year by closing with a 65 to win Woods' holiday tournament in the Bahamas.

They were on opposite ends of Torrey Pines, and the Spaniard made the most of being on the North course, which is 440 yards shorter and played just over two shots easier on average. He made two eagles on the back nine to go out in 29, and his only regret was missing a 7-foot birdie putt on his final hole that would have tied the North course record set 12 years ago by Brandt Snedeker, who was in his group.

"I don't think you ever tee

up on any course at Torrey Pines expecting to shoot 10-under par," said Rahm, who won at Torrey two years ago for his first PGA Tour title.

Rose played in the group behind him, also opened with an eagle and did his best to keep up. He played bogey-free for a 63 and finished with a birdie. He played in the same group as Jordan Spieth (65) and Billy Horschel (66), a group that combined for 21 birdies and two eagles, a better-ball score of 59.

"They told us our combined group was the lowest," Spieth said. "I'm glad, because if there were lower than that, it means every-

body went low."

Charles Howell III and Brandon Hagy had the lowest scores on the South at 66, and Hagy did that with three bogeys on his card.

"You don't see many days when you don't have any wind," Howell said. "The scores were a lot lower than I thought they would be."

Ninety-seven players in the 156-man field broke par. Even more unusual was that no one shot worse than 77.

Most of that was the ideal weather, and while the North is a little tougher than it used to be, the new greens from the Tom Weiskopf redo have settled in

and were much easier to hold. Add to that a collection of shorter par 4s, and there was no shortage of birdies.

Rahm led the way in what he calls his special place.

This is where he won for the first time on the PGA Tour, when he holed a 60-foot eagle putt on the 18th hole. He loves Torrey Pines so much that this was the only tournament where he tried Monday qualifying while at Arizona State (he missed). And this is where he proposed to his girlfriend, Kelley Cahill, on the hiking trails around Torrey.

"So there's a lot of reasons for me to be happy every time I come here, no matter how I play," Rahm said. He had plenty of reason to smile after a 62, matching his low round in his short career on the PGA Tour.

Rahm made his only bogey on the tough par-3 third, and he was in trouble in the rough on the next hole until escaping with par. He responded with four straight birdies, and was just short of the green on the par-5 ninth when his pitch ran out 7 feet past the hole and his birdie putt to tie the course record caught the left lip.

And now it's onto the South course for Rahm, Rose, Spieth and the rest.

"It's nice to get the North out of the way, shoot a good score, just what you have to do," Rose said.

Woods and Rory McIlroy, who opened with a 71, move over to the North. □

## Els shoots 65, chasing DeChambeau at Dubai Desert Classic

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Twenty-five years after winning for the first time at the Dubai Desert Classic, Ernie Els is having another run at the title.

The Big Easy, however, will have to overhaul a player almost half his age to get back in the winner's circle. The 49-year-old Els made seven birdies and an eagle in a 7-under 65 to move within a stroke of the lead after two rounds of an event he has won three



Ernie Els of South Africa tees off on the 8th hole during round one of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

times, first in 1994. That was the first of his 28 European Tour titles.

One of the two players above him on the leaderboard is Bryson DeChambeau, the 25-year-old American seeking his first victory overseas. DeChambeau shot a second straight 66 and shared the lead with Lucas Herbert of Australia (63) at 12-under 132 at Emirates Golf Club.

Els has not won since 2013 and if he is going to end

that title drought, it's more likely to be at the Dubai Desert Classic than anywhere else. In his first 11 starts in the event, he didn't finish outside the top eight and had three victories, three runner-up finishes and three third places.

"I like this place, as you know," Els said. "I've had some really great times here. I'm swinging well, my body feels well. Just going on the memory bank, I guess." □



# Puck and player tracking coming to NHL next season

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

Puck and player tracking is coming to the NHL next season. A sneak preview is coming up this weekend, too.

Commissioner Gary Bettman announced the long-expected news Friday during All-Star Weekend in San Jose, California, calling it a "breakthrough that is years in the making." The league is partnering with German company Jogmo World Corp. to put microchips on player jerseys and inside game pucks. Real-time data will be gathered by antennas in all 31 NHL arenas.

The NHL joins the NFL as the two major North American professional sports leagues with wearable tracking technology. The NBA and Major League Baseball use sophisticated systems that can include radar and cameras.

"Being on the forefront of innovation is good for our game and most especially for our fans," Bettman said. "With the speed and complexity of hockey, it makes for an unparalleled on-ice



Nashville Predators right wing Viktor Arvidsson, left, and Vegas Golden Knights defenseman Brayden McNabb vie for the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in Las Vegas.

product, but at the same time it also presents an incredible challenge. So as a league we have made significant investment to create new technology that quite literally did not exist." Long after the glowing puck of FoxTrax a generation ago, the NHL began its work on puck and player tracking in earnest in 2013. Tests of various sys-

tems were done at All-Star games, the 2016 World Cup of Hockey and two regular-season games earlier this month in Las Vegas.

While the glowing puck isn't coming back, this All-Star Weekend is another test. NBC Sports in the United States and Rogers Sportsnet in Canada will be showcasing tracking data with NBC featuring it as part

of a digital-only broadcast of the 3-on-3 tournament Saturday night.

Players have agreed to the tracking, but the NHL is not yet committing to a firm start date because officials say testing is ongoing with the potential for changes after feedback from players, teams and broadcasters. But the league is confident in the accuracy of

**Associated Press**

the radio frequency-based system and its application for 1,271 regular-season games and the playoffs.

"This will continue to evolve and be monitored and tested and perfected over the course of the rest of this season and parts of next season," NHL chief revenue officer Keith Wachtel said. "But this is our opportunity to say that we are far enough along where the commissioner is comfortable with the data and our broadcasters are comfortable and the NHLPA is comfortable that we can go ahead and unleash this, which we're obviously excited about."

The six-year effort included what NHL senior vice president of business development David Lehanski called "unforeseen" challenges, primarily with how to make the puck.

"A lot of testing (was done) on the performance of the puck both with regard to its durability but also its playability," Lehanski said. "The puck itself is really something unlike anything else ... any other sport has really had to contend with." □

## P.K. Subban

Continued from Page 17

The hour-long special is part-talk show taped at the San Jose Improv with fans as the audience in San Jose, California. Subban's guests will include Jay Leno, comedian and TV host W. Kamau Bell, country singer Lee Brice, IndyCar driver James Hinchcliffe, Columbus defenseman Seth Jones and 13-year-old hockey player Ty Cornett. The show also includes live comedy sketches by Subban along with segments featuring Subban at a jam session with Brice and a recent visit with his family in Toronto. Subban gave no hint of the topics that will be covered, saying only to tune in and watch. "There's definitely some things that I'm going to talk about in my monologue that I'm sure that people will get

a good kick out of, and that's the whole point of watching it," Subban said. "Hopefully enough people think enough about the show to tune in and see the interviews with the guests, the skits that we've done and the work that's been put into the script."

Television is nothing new for Subban. NBC Sport producer Sam Flood said they learned what a great communicator the defenseman is when Subban worked the final game of the 2018 Stanley Cup Final.

"He worked well with Mike Tirico, was involved in an interview with the commissioner, and it was fun to see," Flood said.

That led to further talks between NBC Sports Group about how to showcase Subban without interfering with his top priority, the Nashville Predators. They



Nashville Predators center Ryan Johansen, left, Vegas Golden Knights center Jonathan Marchessault and Predators defenseman P.K. Subban vie for the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in Las Vegas.

announced the All-Star special and "The P.K. Project" digital series earlier this month. The first episode of "The P.K. Project" just debuted giving viewers a look into his personal life.

"P.K. is doing a wonderful job working with our team to get some unique content and content that only

could happen with his relationships and his personality," Flood said.

The All-Star special and "The P.K. Project" work around Subban's schedule. Subban said players are at the rink for about three hours a day, leaving them with plenty of free time. Away from hockey, Sub-

ban said he has plenty of other interests keeping him busy including food, fashion and television.

"Just because the person next to me doesn't think that they can host their own show doesn't mean that I can't," Subban said. To the 29-year-old defenseman who made his NHL debut in February 2010 with Montreal, what matters is finding what works for himself. Subban knows some people might criticize him spending time on something other than his Predators' job, which pays him \$9 million a year through the 2021-22 season.

"But some people do other things because it makes them better at their job," Subban said.

Starting his own production company — Peek Productions — is something Subban has wanted to do for a long time. □





In this Oct. 21, 2018 file photo, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana speaks at a ceremony in Santa Clara, Calif.

Associated Press

## Football great Joe Montana looking to score with marijuana

By PAUL ELIAS  
Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana, looking to hit pay dirt in the legal marijuana industry, is part of a \$75 million investment in a pot operator, it was announced Thursday.

San Jose, California-based Caliva said it will use the investment to grow a company that includes a farm, a retail store, distribution center and a delivery service. It also distributes its branded products in dozens of other retail outlets in the state.

The former San Francisco 49ers star said his venture capital firm was investing in an industry he believes "can provide relief to many people and can make a serious impact on opioid use or addiction." Some doctors recommend marijuana to treat opioid addiction and as an alternate relief for pain. Montana is the latest, and one of the most prominent, professional athletes to openly endorse marijuana use. Heisman trophy winner and retired NFL running back Ricky Williams and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton have been particularly outspoken in their embrace of marijuana. Super Bowl winning quarterback Jim McMahon, professional wrestling star Rob Van Dam and ultramarathon runner Avery Collins also publicly endorse marijuana.

Montana launched the venture capital firm Liquid 2 Ventures in 2015. Caliva didn't disclose Montana's portion of the investment. Former Yahoo! Inc. chief executive officer Carol Bartz also participated in the investment and will join the company's board of directors.

Bartz, 70, said the Caliva investors show the growing mainstream acceptance of marijuana, which can be legally consumed by adults in 10 states and can be used by patients with doctors' recommendations in 33 states.

"I wasn't a reefer head when I was in college," Bartz said with a chuckle.

Until about seven months ago, Bartz said she had no interest in marijuana or the industry. Then the wife of a fellow Cisco Systems board member told her to try cannabis cream to treat pain caused by a knee replacement and almost overnight, she said she became marijuana's best salesperson. "People are discovering there are better ways to clamp down on pain than over drugging yourself," she said. Bartz said she doesn't smoke or consume edible marijuana, but uses cannabis-based creams and tinctures. Bartz said the investment will be used to open more stores and expand operations and launch products, including cannabis-based beverages. □

## With voodoo dolls, cookies Saints fans protest missed call

By STACEY PLAISANCE  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A New Orleans bakery is turning out thousands of cookies with a picture of a referee with a circle and slash mark across it in red icing. The owner of a locksmith shop has hung posters and signs taking aim at NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, and some residents have hung posters of a referee wearing a blindfold.

New Orleans Saints fans have found some pretty creative ways to express their displeasure over the infamous "no call" during last weekend's Saints-Rams championship game. But their newest tactic may make the loudest statement — a Super Bowl boycott.

"We're angry," said Lauren Haydel, a Saints fan and business owner who has started printing and selling T-shirts featuring a referee voodoo doll with pins sticking out of it from her Fleurty Girl retail stores.

Haydel says she'll be joining the boycott and not watching the big game on Super Bowl Sunday.

"We're not even going to go to a place with TVs on," she said. "I don't care to watch it."

Haydel said fans were looking forward to a Saints Super Bowl in Atlanta, and a boycott of the game is the best response the Who Dat Nation can give.

"That's how we'll really stick it to them where it hurts," she said.

Several bars in the city have said they won't be showing the game in their establishments, and residents say they're making other plans to avoid the game.

Michelle Miller, owner of H Rault Locksmiths, says she's attending a so-called "Boycott Bowl" party.

"It's a devastating loss, and we won't get over it, but ... we are used to getting disrespected by the National Football League Association," she said, making a reference to "Bounty Gate,"



Los Angeles Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman (23) defends against New Orleans Saints wide receiver Tommy Lee Lewis (11) during the second half the NFL football NFC championship game Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in New Orleans. The Rams won 26-23.

Associated Press

when the NFL suspended Saints coaches — including head coach Sean Payton for a year — after finding the Saints were rewarding players for hits on opponents with intent to injure.

Miller incorporated her locksmith business while taking digs at the NFL.

One sign reads: "We know keys, we know Brees ... We know he's the MVP," a reference to Saints quarterback Drew Brees. Another sign reads like a want-ad for a "no call locksmith" with "For hire Roger Goodell's blind boys locksmith."

"We all saw it," Miller said. "We all saw the same thing, all of us except the blind referee."

Owners of Haydel's Bakery took a sweeter approach, selling anti-referee cookies alongside their signature king cakes and pastries.

"I don't think there's anything short of replaying the game that would make New Orleans Saints fans happy," said David Haydel, one of the bakery owners. "We know that's probably not going to happen, but at least they can take a bite out of the injustice." Though lawsuits have been filed by Saints season ticket holders asking a Louisiana court to reverse the results or reschedule the game, experts give the move little chance of success. □





# Will robots take your job? Quarter of U.S. workers at risk

By MATT O'BRIEN  
AP Technology Writer

Robots aren't replacing everyone, but a quarter of U.S. jobs will be severely disrupted as artificial intelligence accelerates the automation of existing work, according to a new Brookings Institution report.

Thursday's report from the Washington think tank says roughly 36 million Americans hold jobs with "high exposure" to automation — meaning at least 70 percent of their tasks could soon be performed by machines using current technology. Among those most likely to be affected are cooks, waiters and others in food services; short-haul truck drivers; and clerical office workers.

"That population is going to need to upskill, reskill or change jobs fast," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at Brookings and lead author of the report.

Muro said the timeline for the changes could be "a few years or it could be two



In this Nov. 9, 2018, file photo, a Bossa Nova robot scans shelves to help provide associates with real-time inventory data at a Walmart Supercenter in Houston.

decades." But it's likely that automation will happen more swiftly during the next economic downturn. Businesses are typically eager to implement cost-cutting technology as they lay off workers.

Though the United States is in the middle of its second

longest expansion in history, and jobs data suggest that the economy remains healthy, many business leaders and economists have suggested in surveys that the United States could slip into a recession in 2020. In addition, the partial government shutdown

has been creating anxieties about a downturn.

Some economic studies have found that similar shifts toward automating production happened in the early part of previous recessions — and may have contributed to the "jobless recovery" that followed the 2008 financial crisis. But with new advances in artificial intelligence, it's not just industrial and warehouse robots that will alter the American workforce. Self-checkout kiosks and computerized hotel concierges will do their part.

Most jobs will change somewhat as machines take over routine tasks, but a majority of U.S. workers will be able to adapt to that shift without being displaced.

Some chain restaurants have already shifted to self-ordering machines; a handful have experimented with robot-assisted kitchens. Google this year is piloting the use of its digital voice assistant at hotel lobbies to instantly interpret conversations across a few dozen languages. Autonomous vehicles could replace short-haul delivery drivers. Walmart and other retailers are preparing to open cashier-less stores powered by in-store sensors or cameras with facial recognition technology.

The changes will hit hardest in smaller cities, especially

those in the heartland and the Rust Belt, according to the Brookings report. The risk is highest in Indiana and Kentucky, where some counties have nearly half the workforce employed in the labor-intensive manufacturing and transportation industries. The changes will also disproportionately affect the younger workers who dominate food services and other industries at highest risk for automation. "Restaurants will be able to get along with significantly reduced workforces," Muro said. "In the hotel industry, instead of five people manning a desk to greet people, there's one and people basically serve themselves."

Many economists find that automation has an overall positive effect on the labor market, said Matias Cortes, an assistant professor at York University in Toronto who was not involved with the Brookings report. It can create economic growth, reduce prices and increase demand while also creating new jobs that make up for those that disappear.

But Cortes said there's no doubt there are "clear winners and losers." In the recent past, those hardest hit were men with low levels of education who dominated manufacturing and other blue-collar jobs, and women with intermediate levels of education who dominated clerical and administrative positions.

In the future, the class of workers affected by automation could grow as machines become more intelligent. The Brookings report analyzed each occupation's automation potential based on research by the McKinsey management consulting firm. Those jobs that remain largely unscathed will be those requiring not just advanced education, but also interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence.

"These high-paying jobs require a lot of creativity and problem-solving," Cortes said. "That's going to be difficult for new technologies to replace." □

## Digital media company BuzzFeed cutting 15 percent of jobs

By TALI ARBEL  
AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Digital media company BuzzFeed is cutting 15 percent of its jobs, or about 200 people, to trim expenses and become profitable.

BuzzFeed CEO Jonah Peretti wrote employees Wednesday that the layoffs will help BuzzFeed avoid having to raise money from investors again.

The privately held company has not been profitable for several years. It has raised hundreds of millions from such investors as Comcast's NBCUniversal. Based in New York, BuzzFeed is best known for its viral posts and quizzes and has a well-regarded news division.

Many digital media companies have cut jobs or sold off in recent years as Facebook and Google gobble up the bulk of digi-

tal advertising dollars. Verizon also said Wednesday that it is cutting about 800 jobs in its media division, which includes Yahoo and HuffPost. Newspaper companies have also suffered deep cutbacks, with staffs nearly cut in half since 2004. Reports started rolling

in Wednesday of Gannett, one of the country's largest newspaper publishers, laying off journalists from USA Today, The Arizona Republic and other newspapers. It's unclear how many jobs were lost. A representative did not respond to requests for comment. □



In this Sept. 2, 2015, file photo the BuzzFeed website is displayed on an iPad held by an Associated Press staffer in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



# Forgoing staffers, many businesses turn to freelancers

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It hasn't been lost on small business owners that Uber and other ride-sharing services are enormously successful without having employees doing the work. It's one of the reasons why small companies are forgoing employees in favor of independent contractors.

Todd Miller transformed his small business a year ago, shifting Classic Metal Roofing Systems of Kentuckiana from a company with employees to one using independent contractors. The change gives Miller more flexibility in doing roof replacements than he had with a small group of full-time employees.

"We can hire independents who have the experience and skills that we need for each individual project. With employees, you are often asking people to do things they are not terribly experienced at," Miller says. Using independent contractors or freelancers has many benefits besides flexibility. In a tight job market, owners can more easily find independents rather than full-time employees. Owners can also save on overhead, hiring only when they need help. They don't have costs like employment taxes and insurance, nor do they face the administrative and management tasks that go along with having employees. But the government has rules about the use of independent contractors, contending that some owners



In this Jan. 15, 2019, photo Chris Richardson CEO of Talent Response, a website that helps small businesses find freelancers, poses for a photo in Boston.

misclassify employees and call them independents to avoid the costs associated with employees — starting with Social Security and Medicare taxes that combined cost owners 7.65 percent of staffers' compensation. Although companies have used independent contractors for generations, many small businesses began using them for the first time during the Great Recession and its aftermath. Owners have become more cautious about hiring employees unless they're certain that they have enough revenue to justify the added risk and expense. The growth of Uber and other ride-sharing services has encouraged owners in other industries to adopt a similar business model, hiring independents to do the work. That has created another potential

legal issue — Uber drivers have sued the company in several federal courts, seeking to be declared employees. So far, there's been no definitive ruling. The IRS has criteria to determine if a worker is an employee or an independent contractor, including how much control a company has over a worker's behavior and the financial aspects of the job. How long the relationship between company and worker is expected to continue, and whether the services a worker performs are a key aspect of the company's business are also factors. Owners are found to be misclassifying workers when they're audited, increasingly by state officials who want the payroll taxes they're owed, says Nannina Angioni, an employment law attorney with

Kaedian LLP in Los Angeles. Owners can also land in legal trouble when there is a dispute with a worker classified as an independent contractor; when the worker complains to the government or files a lawsuit, the employment arrangement can come under scrutiny. But owners may not have ulterior motives in using independent contractors rather than employees, says Kyle Lawrence, owner of Berkshire Payroll Tax, a Sandisfield, Massachusetts, company that helps businesses comply with employment tax laws. "They're busy running their businesses and they may not necessarily understand the nuances or the risks of classifying someone as an independent contractor," he says.

Eric Stanton consulted with attorneys and accountants

before deciding to use independent contractors for his pool cleaning business, Thousand Oaks, California-based Stanton Pools. The people working for him have their own vehicles and buy their own equipment and chemicals and Stanton does not require them to take on a job.

"It's an option. If I got a call from a potential customer, I'll say, 'it's on your Wednesday route, are you interested in taking it on?'" he says. Stanton says he has structured the business, which he says resembles the Uber model, so he could be in compliance with federal and state law. California's Supreme Court last year issued a ruling that created more stringent tests for determining whether a worker is an employee or independent contractor.

Many owners use a mix of employees and independent contractors. Chris Richardson has three full-time employees at Talent Response, a website that helps small businesses find freelancers. He uses independents when he has a surge in demand or he needs expertise that his staffers don't have.

"Independent contractors are less risky, particularly in 2019's uncertain macro-economic environment. Should business contract, it is much easier to end a project with a contractor than to pay severance or unemployment expenses associated with a layoff," says Richardson, whose company is based in Boston. □

## IMF sees Greek economy accelerating in 2019

Associated Press

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — The International Monetary Fund said Friday it is optimistic on Greece's growth and employment prospects for this year, but urged the government to stick to reforms to maintain the momentum.

In a report published following five-day talks with officials in Athens, IMF officials said that the battered

Greek economy is set to grow 2.4 percent this year, up from 2.1 percent in 2018. The report also argued that the heavily indebted country's medium-term ability to repay its creditors — mostly its European partners and the IMF — remains "robust." It added, however, that the country remains vulnerable to a potential slowdown in the global economy and must press ahead with re-

forms, particularly to make the labor market more flexible. Greece exited its eight-year bailout program in August.

But it remains subject to scrutiny — lighter than during the bailout years but stricter than other countries that received rescue loans — from its European creditors.

If the reviews are satisfactory, creditors will return

to Greece, through June 2022, 4.8 billion euros (\$5.45 billion) in profits from their Greek bond holdings.

Representatives of Greece's European creditors also took part in the talks in Athens this week. In a statement Friday, they said that particular attention was paid to reforms Greece has committed to complete by the end of last year, and to ways of re-

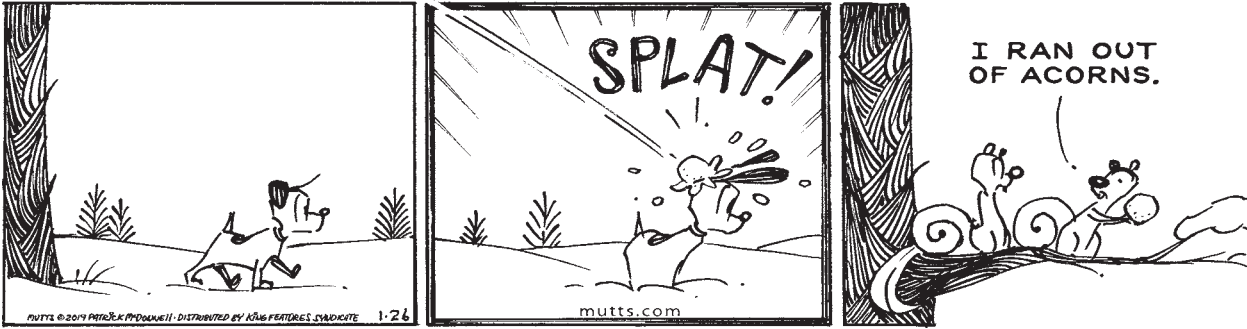
ducing Greek banks' bulky portfolio of non-performing loans.

The statement didn't comment on the Greek government's progress in implementing the measures.

A full report on the European delegation's findings will be released Feb. 27, with a decision on whether to release the first batch of funds expected March 11. □



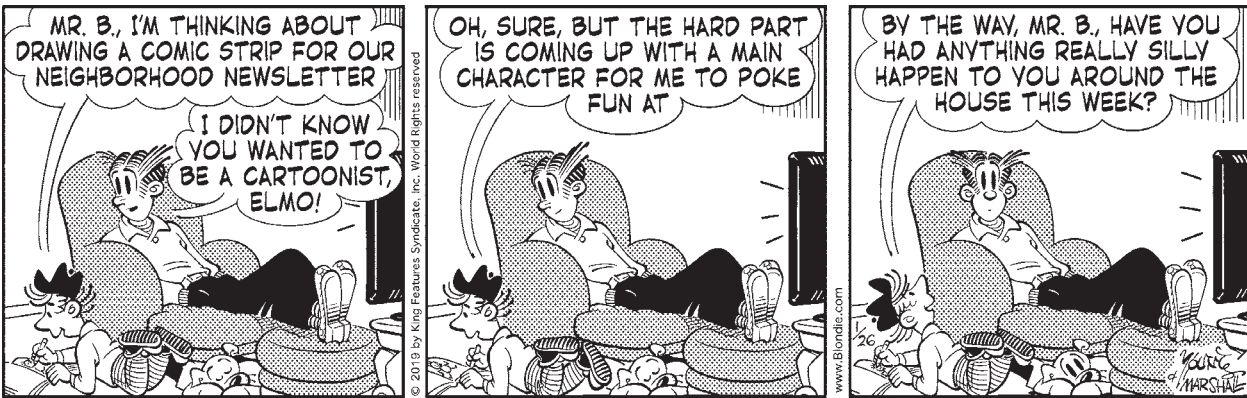
**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



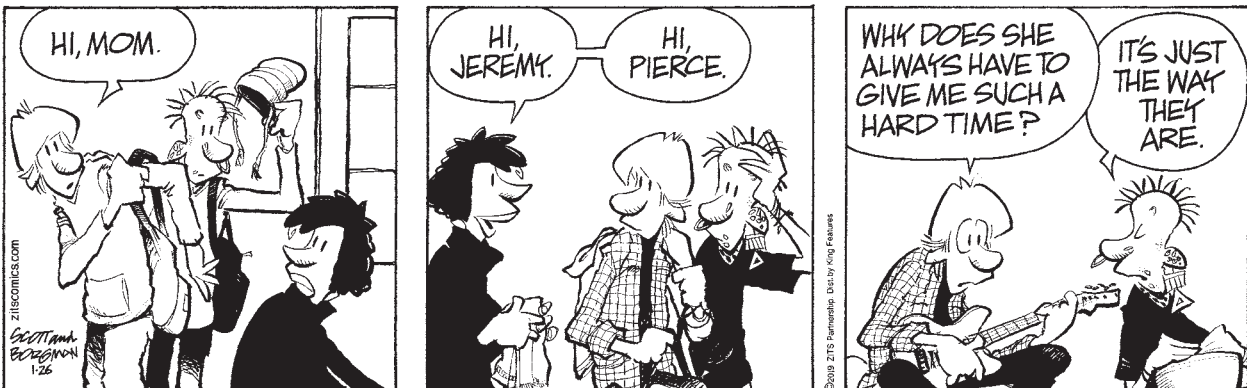
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

8	7						6	1
3			1		7			4
		3		8		9		
			4	1	5			
		6		9		2		
5			8		9			7
9	1						2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/26

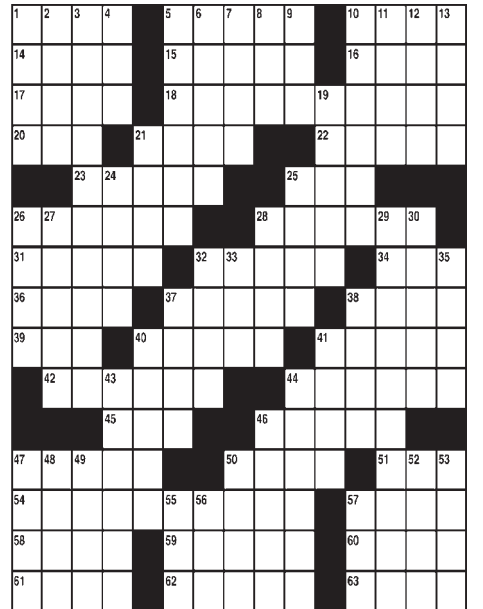
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	7	8	6	4	3	1	2	5
6	2	3	1	5	8	9	4	7
4	5	1	2	9	7	6	3	8
5	6	4	9	2	1	7	8	3
8	1	7	3	6	4	5	9	2
3	9	2	7	8	5	4	1	6
7	3	9	8	1	6	2	5	4
1	4	6	5	3	2	8	7	9
2	8	5	4	7	9	3	6	1

**ACROSS**

- 1 Paper fastener
- 5 \_\_\_ steak; tender cut of meat
- 10 Rugged cliff
- 14 Freeway division
- 15 \_\_\_ Bara of silent films
- 16 James \_\_\_ Jones
- 17 Performs
- 18 Opposition; defiance
- 20 Actress Arthur
- 21 Pool toy
- 22 \_\_\_ crow flies; in a straight line
- 23 Lank; bony
- 25 Prefix for shrunk or trial
- 26 Fled and wed
- 28 Stanzas
- 31 \_\_\_ up; formed a queue
- 32 Like toasted marshmallows
- 34 Today: abbr.
- 36 Housekeeper
- 37 Fish with a net
- 38 Agile
- 39 12th-graders: abbr.
- 40 Takes a quick glance
- 41 One not to be trusted
- 42 Like a clear night sky
- 44 Tactless
- 45 Basketball hoop's edge
- 46 Excuse
- 47 Snapshot
- 50 Lump of dirt
- 51 Laundry soap
- 54 Mississippi steamers
- 57 1 of 3 primary colors
- 58 Above
- 59 Assumed name
- 60 Forest animals
- 61 Declare untrue
- 62 Name for 8 British kings
- 63 Facial features



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/26/19

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

HAT	SCOOP	ONCE
EDIT	PROVE	PEAL
MAMA	RAZES	PERK
MERRIMENT	ODDS	
GAGS	ESS	
ASSETS	TORRENTS	
MINTS	TUBES	AAA
AGES	FINED	TIPS
SHE	PILED	SAVES
STRAINED	WINERY	
LEI	BING	
BLAB	STRANGERS	
LOPE	HOIST	LIAR
OVER	EMOTE	OGRE
BEST	DETER	SIP

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1/26/19

**DOWN**

- 1 Tell another's secret
- 35 Little child

- 2 Indy 500, for one
- 3 Opponent
- 4 \_\_\_ Moines
- 5 Leave high and dry
- 6 Burglary
- 7 Take a nap
- 8 Mean Amin
- 9 Faux \_\_\_; social blunder
- 10 Discontinues
- 11 Angry speech
- 12 Foot part
- 13 Mirth
- 19 Dawdle
- 21 Regretted
- 24 Mimicked
- 25 Rind
- 26 Shade trees
- 27 Fibbers
- 28 Solemn promises
- 29 In particular
- 30 Actress \_\_\_ Michelle Gellar
- 32 Zane or Lady Jane
- 33 Live \_\_\_; Georgia's state tree
- 37 Long-\_\_\_; extended
- 38 Ignore rudely
- 40 \_\_\_ to; before
- 41 Uttered
- 43 Blood vessel
- 44 Shiny
- 46 Sanctuary table
- 47 Nudge
- 48 Bee colony
- 49 Dutch \_\_\_
- 50 Son of Adam
- 52 Actor Perry
- 53 More or \_\_\_; approximately
- 55 Word from Scrooge
- 56 "Grand \_\_\_ Opny" resident
- 57 Mayberry



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\*WK. 51 OV \$39k  
\*WK 52 OV \$46k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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# On Twitter, limited number of characters spreading fake info

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A tiny fraction of Twitter users spread the vast majority of fake news in 2016, with conservatives and older people sharing misinformation more, a new study finds.

Scientists examined more than 16,000 U.S. Twitter accounts and found that 16 of them — less than one-tenth of 1 percent — tweeted out nearly 80 percent of the misinformation masquerading as news, according to a study Thursday in the journal *Science*. About 99 percent of the Twitter users spread virtually no fake information in the most heated part of the election year, said study co-author David Lazer, a Northeastern University political and computer science professor.

Spreading fake information “is taking place in a very seamy, but small, corner of Twitter,” Lazer said.

Lazer said misinformation “super sharers” flood Twitter: an average of 308 pieces of fakery each between Aug. 1 and Dec. 6 in 2016.

And it’s not just few people spreading it, but few people reading it, Lazer said.

“The vast majority of people are exposed to very little fake news despite the fact that there’s a concerted effort to push it into the system,” Lazer said.

The researchers found the 16,442 accounts they analyzed by starting with a random pool of voter records, matching names to Twitter users and then screening out accounts that appeared to not be controlled by real people. Their conclusions are similar to a study earlier this month



This April 26, 2017, file photo shows the Twitter app icon on a mobile phone in Philadelphia.

that looked at the spread of false information on Facebook.

It also found that few people shared fakery, but those who did were more likely to be over 65 and conservatives.

That makes this study more believable because two groups of researchers using different social media platforms, measuring political affiliation differently and with different panels of users came to the same conclusion, said Yonchai Benkler, co-director of Harvard Law School’s center on the internet and society. He wasn’t part of either study but praised them, saying they should reduce misguided postelection panic about how “out-of-control technological processes had rendered us as a society incapable of telling truth from fiction.”

Experts say a recent showdown between Kentucky Catholic school students and a Native American elder at the Lincoln Memo-

rial seemed to be stoked by a single now-shut down Twitter account. Lazer said the account fit some characteristics of super sharers from his study but it was more left-leaning, which didn’t match the study.

Unlike the earlier Facebook study, Lazer didn’t interview

the people but ranked people’s politics based on what they read and shared on Twitter.

The researchers used several different sources of domains for false information masquerading as news — not individual stories but overall sites — from

Associated Press

lists compiled by other academics and BuzzFeed. While five outside experts praised the study, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, head of the public policy center at the University of Pennsylvania, found several problems, especially with how they determined fake information sites.

Lazer’s team found that among people they categorized as left-leaning and centrists, fewer than 5 percent shared any fake information. Among those they determined were right-leaning, 11 percent of accounts shared misinformation masquerading as news. For those on the extreme right, it was 21 percent.

This study shows “most of us aren’t too bad at circulating information, but some of us are determined propagandists who are trying to manipulate the public sphere,” said Texas A&M University’s Jennifer Mercieca, a historian of political rhetoric who wasn’t part of the study. □

## High heat but no record: 2018 was 4th warmest year on Earth



In this Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018 file photo, people cool off in a fountain during a hot summer day in the Basque city of Vitoria, northern Spain.

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — While Earth was a tad cooler last year than the last couple of years, it still was the fourth warmest on record, a new analysis shows.

With the partial U.S. government shutdown, federal

agency calculations for last year’s temperatures are delayed. But independent scientists at Berkeley Earth calculate that last year’s average temperature was 58.93 degrees (14.96 degrees Celsius).

That’s 1.39 degrees (0.77 degrees Celsius) warmer

than the average from 1951 to 1980 and about 2.09 degrees (1.16 degrees Celsius) warmer than pre-industrial times.

It’s likely other temperature measuring groups will agree on 2018’s ranking since they had it at fourth hottest through November, said Berkeley Earth climate scientist Zeke Hausfather. The Japanese Meteorological Agency has already calculated it at fourth. Record-keeping started in 1850. Only 2016, 2017 and 2015 were warmer than last year, with only small differences among them. That was mostly because of natural yearly weather variations like El Nino and La Nina, Hausfather said. He said it would be foolish to call last year’s slight dip a cooling trend.

“The long term is stunningly clear,” he said. □

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## Kooiker-huh? An intro to Westminster dog show's new breeds

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two new breeds. Sixteen new syllables.

The grand basset griffon Vendeen and the Nederlandse kooikerhondje make their debuts at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show next month, each getting a nationally televised turn among the more than 200 breeds and varieties on the green carpet at the nation's premier canine contest.

But Buzz Lightyear, for one, seems to be taking his breed's big moment in stride. The 4-year-old grand basset griffon Vendeen (pronounced grahnd bah-SAY' grih-FAHN' vahn-DAY'-ahn) glanced out Tuesday at the cameras at a Westminster-preview news conference, looked up at owner Brielly Cipriotti, and then lay down on rostrum to do a couple of the things his breed does best: sniff around and induce smiles.

"They're extremely sweet, and they have a big, goofy attitude," Cipriotti, of Bealeton, Virginia, said later. She's excited about the exposure that the breed



In this Jan. 10, 2018 file photo, Nederlandse kooikerhondje Escher, left, and Rhett are shown during a news conference at the American Kennel Club headquarters in New York.

— a low-slung, long-eared, hardy hound developed in France to hunt rabbits and hare — stands to gain from Westminster.

About 3,200 dogs, ranging from wee Malteses to strapping mastiffs, are entered to compete at next month's show, which includes agility and obedience competitions along with the breed judging that leads to the signature Best in Show trophy.

It will be awarded Feb. 12 at Madison Square Garden and live on FS1.

The relatively new agility and obedience contests are open to mixed-breed dogs. Dobby, a corgi-terrier mix, is making his fourth try at the agility title. But even if he wins, it won't be the most eventful thing that has happened at Westminster for owner Stefanie Kappus. Her husband, Toby, pro-

posed to her as she came out of the agility ring last year.

"He keeps saying, 'What am I going to do to top that this year?'" joked Kappus, of Milford, New Jersey. New breeds appear at Westminster after getting recognized by the American Kennel Club. The process takes years and includes setting standards and having hundreds of

Associated Press

dogs spread around the country.

The merry, clever Nederlandse kooikerhondje (pronounced NAY'-dehr-lahn-seh KOY'-kehr-hahnd-jeh) was initially trained to help Dutch duck hunters by attracting the birds' interest and then luring them into net-covered canals.

"It's the Pied Piper of the dog world," said owner Rod Beckstead, of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, as he showed off 2-year-old Bandit on Tuesday.

The breed remains versatile and easy to teach to do dog sports and other things; some even serve as cadaver dogs, he said.

Westminster is regularly protested by animal-rights activists who deplore dog breeding as appearance-focused and detrimental to mixed-breed dogs that need homes. The club portrays the show as a tribute to all canines.

The Westminster Kennel Club show spans events on Feb. 9, 11 and 12, with parts broadcast on Fox and Nat Geo Wild. A "Meet the Breeds" event, featuring both dogs and cats, unfolds alongside Westminster on Feb. 9. □

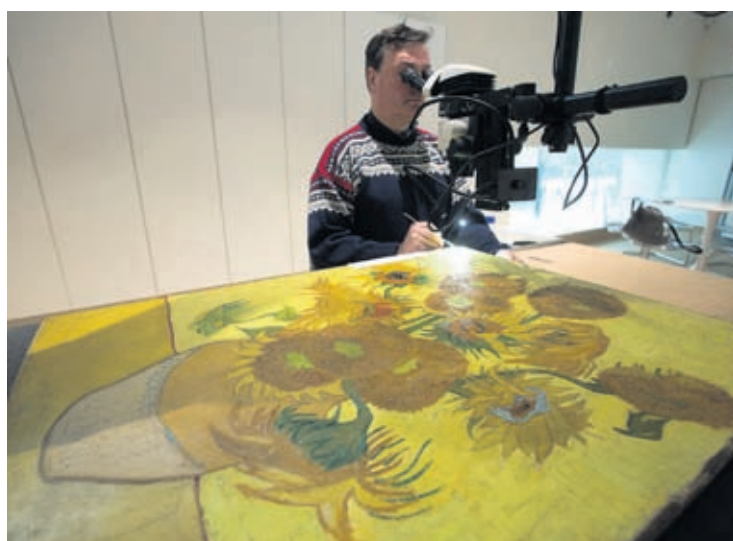
## Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' staying put in Amsterdam museum

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — A "full body scan" carried out on the Van Gogh Museum's version of the Dutch master's iconic "Sunflowers" has shown the painting is not fit to travel because it's in "stable but vulnerable" condition, the museum's director said Thursday.

"We've decided that any stresses that the picture could be subjected to were it to travel, were (it) to be lent, that those might be too risky," director Axel Rueger told The Associated Press in the studio where the painting is undergoing restoration. "So therefore we decided that from now on we will not be able to lend the picture any more to other exhibitions to other museums — so it will always



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, senior paintings conservator Rene Boitelle works on restoring Vincent van Gogh's world-famous "Sunflowers" painting at the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Associated Press

stay in Amsterdam." For Van Gogh fans who can't make it to Amsterdam, the predominantly yellow 1889 painting of a bunch of sunflowers in a vase is

based on another version of the work painted a year earlier that is on display at London's National Gallery. Other versions of the work are in Philadelphia, Tokyo

and Munich. The painting in Amsterdam is hardly a frequent flyer — it has only been loaned out six times, the last time to the National Gallery so it could hang next to that London museum's version.

Ella Hendriks, who worked on the current restoration project, said the painting underwent a series of tests she likened to a "full body scan" on a human patient. The tests used precision imaging machines to peer through the surface and decide what could and could not be done to the painting. One test, usually used to examine retinas, gave a crucial insight by creating a "virtual cross-section" of layers of paint and varnish. "We can see ... that the paint layer is mixed in together with the

varnish layer so there's not a clear division between them," Hendriks said. That discovery has limited the amount of work restorer Rene Boitelle can carry out. He will remove some patches of beeswax that was applied after Van Gogh finished the work and have now gone a milky white color, and will use special paint to rework some previous restorations to make them less visible. To return the painting to its original state would involve removing the varnish, which Van Gogh did not apply to the painting. Also, some previous restorations are under the varnish and can't be treated. "That varnish cannot be removed safely - at least not with the methods and materials available to us now," Boitelle said. □



# ‘Serenity’ now? No thank you

By **JAKE COYLE**  
 Associated Press

The elevator pitch for Steven Knight's "Serenity" would be: "'Key Largo' meets 'Westworld.'" And it's every bit as ridiculous as that sounds. Seven decades after Humphrey Bogart indelibly steered a boat through stormy Atlantic seas, Matthew McConaughey has found his own tropical noir. But "Serenity," one very leaky vessel indeed, has a strange, heightened atmosphere that goes well beyond the usual thickened air of film noir. McConaughey's Baker Dill is a fishing boat captain who, like Bogart was in "Key Largo," is a veteran. He lives the life of an ornery and heavy-drinking bachelor on Plymouth Island, a small spit of unknown whereabouts (the film was shot in Mauritius) where there's a single bar, the Rope, and everyone knows who's sleeping with whom. (In Dill's case, it's Constance, played by Diane Lane.) He lives in a shipping container

by the shore and when he strips naked to, as he announces, "take a shower," he does a swan dive off the seaside cliff outside. Maybe that's about what you'd expect of a McConaughey movie set anywhere near a beach. But then strangely exaggerated metaphors begin popping up everywhere. Dill's boat is named "Serenity" and he's dubbed the elusive giant tuna he obsessively chases "Justice." (That's right. "Serenity" is about a fisherman hunting a tuna named Justice.) But why is he, for example, so pointedly drinking from a mug labeled "World's Greatest Dad"? Why does he say things like "I'm a hooker without a hook"? And why on earth does some spilled water momentarily telepathically connect Dill to his young son who sits somewhere far away in front of a computer screen? Didn't McConaughey get all his interdimensional parenting out of his system in "Interstellar"? It turns out, there are an-

swers to these peculiarities and others. A big reveal eventually washes ashore that both explains the film's clumsy pseudo-reality and makes it only more absurd. You can't say Knight, the talented screenwriter of "Eastern Promises" and "Dirty Pretty Things" and the writer-director of "Locke," isn't going for something audacious and grandiose here. "Serenity" isn't the sort of misfire you are likely to quickly forget; its aim is too high and the results are too off balance. One tends to remember fish named Justice. Whether a tamer film would have been better or worse is hard to say. On the plus side, there's a blonde Anne Hathaway in full femme fatale mode, an occasion Knight celebrates with some of the most excitable camera moves you've ever seen. She plays Dill's



This image released by Aviron Pictures shows Matthew McConaughey, left, and Anne Hathaway in a scene from "Serenity."

Associated Press

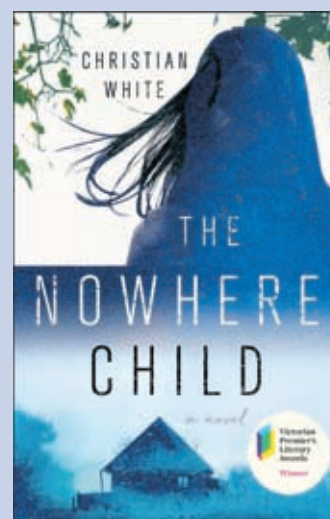
ex-wife who has tracked Dill, via Facebook, to Plymouth with the proposal that Dill take her abusive and alcoholic husband (Jason Clarke, a caricature of villainess) on a fishing trip and leave him at the bottom of the ocean in exchange for \$10 million. Certainly, Knight is more than capable of taking a simple if familiar genre setup like that and turning

it into something interesting. His "Locke" memorably made a terse thriller out of a plot that featured Tom Hardy alone in a car for nearly the film's entire running time. But he has added a second layer of parable to "Serenity" that, without giving anything away, has something to do with that far-away boy and little to do with basic narrative structures.

# ‘Nowhere Child’ is Christian White’s stunning debut

By **OLINE H. COGDILL**  
 Associated Press

"The Nowhere Child: a Novel" (Minotaur), by Christian White. A young woman's fond memories of her happy childhood and loving parents are turned upside down when she learns she may have been kidnapped more than 28 years ago in "The Nowhere Child," a stunning debut by Christian White. The perceptive plot of "The Nowhere Child" works well as a story about the extremes that one will go to protect loved ones as well as a tale about what makes a family. White skillfully creates a credible story filled with surprises and realistic characters worth caring about. Kim Leamy has a quiet life teaching photography at a school in Melbourne, Australia. Her loving mother, Carol, recently died but she has a solid relationship with her sup-



This cover image released by Minotaur shows "The Nowhere Child," a novel by Christian White.

Associated Press

family has always lived in Australia. Not only does James have reams of paperwork, he also has a DNA sample that he surreptitiously took from her that definitely proves that Kim is Sammy, and that he is her brother. Kim finds it hard to believe that the warm, happy home in which she was raised was

the result of a crime. She agrees to go to Kentucky with James to find out what could have happened. White seamlessly moves "The Nowhere Child" from the present, as Kim tries to piece together a lifetime of lies, back to the incidents 28 years ago that may have led to an abduction. White shows life in a small Kentucky town, the Went family divided by religious fanaticism and a spiritual leader who encourages snake handling without deriding small towns or religion. Despite the evidence that James presents, suspense mounts as the plot explores the decades-old secrets that the Went family held close. The appealing Kim's confusion over whether to doubt her childhood or accept this new dysfunctional family adds to the tension in "The Nowhere Child."

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## Some call Greta Van Fleet the saviors of rock. But not them.

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — When the members of the rock band Greta Van Fleet put their last touches on their first full-length album, they didn't celebrate with a round of beers or a fancy dinner. They immediately started working on new songs.

"Once we finished 'Anthem of the Peaceful Army' — the very day that we'd OK'd all the mixing — we started writing the next album," said Jake Kiszka, the band's guitarist. "If we're stagnant, it becomes boring."

The young Michigan rockers whose sound and classic rock look is reminiscent of Led Zeppelin have done the opposite of stagnate in the last 18 months. It's been more like an explosion, capped by four Grammy Award nominations, including best new artist and best rock album.

Since their April 2017 breakthrough with the song "Highway Tune," they've put out two EPs and their "Anthem of the Peaceful Army" debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's rock chart and No. 3 on the all-genre albums chart last year. It has also reached the Top 10 in Canada, Italy and



In this Dec. 8, 2018 file photo, Josh Kiszka, foreground left, and Jake Kiszka of Greta Van Fleet perform at the 2018 KROQ Absolut Almost Acoustic Christmas in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

Germany. They've played "Saturday Night Live" and "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," count Elton John as a fan and have been embraced as the four guys who can save rock 'n' roll, a tag they politely decline.

"It's a silly thing to consider anyone a savior of rock 'n' roll. In our opinion, no one king can wear that crown," said Jake Kiszka, 22. "There's always someone who carries the torch and takes that into the future and interprets that through

their influences."

Jason Flom, who signed Greta Van Fleet to his Lava Records, said there's nothing calculated about the band, saying they make music because it's what they were born to do: "It's almost like they were sent in a time capsule to save rock 'n' roll," he said. "They wouldn't say that, but I will." Keeping the members grounded through all this fuss is blood — three of the members are brothers. Kiszka's twin, Josh, is the howling singer, and his younger

brother, 19-year-old Sam, plays bass and keyboards. The quartet is rounded out by drummer and family friend Danny Wagner, 19.

The Kiszka brothers are so passionate about what they do that they used to get into fistfights when they were younger over musical choices. Now they rely on each other to get through the noise.

"When someone starts to steer one way or another away from the herd, it seems like there's always someone there to pull you

back in," said Jake Kiszka, who called the past year "being in the eye of a storm. There's so much chaos around you but the very center seems so calm."

At the Grammys, taking place Feb. 10 in Los Angeles, the band is up for best rock song ("Black Smoke Rising"), best rock performance ("Highway Tune") and best rock album ("From the Fires" EP). Competition in those categories include the late Chris Cornell, Arctic Monkeys, twenty one pilots, St. Vincent, Weezer, Fall Out Boy and more.

Greta Van Fleet, whose name was inspired by the octogenarian bluegrass musician Gretchen Van Fleet, also are nominated for best new artist, up against Chloe x Halle, Luke Combs, H.E.R., Dua Lipa, Margo Price, Bebe Rexha and Jorja Smith.

Asked which of the four awards the band most coveted, Jake Kiszka was diplomatic. "I think best album and best performance would be some of the more highlighted categories I'd like us to win. It seems to me the best new artist is sort of a cursed category." Does that mean they won't accept it? "We'll accept it," he answered, laughing. "That would be rude." □

## Frances Cone delivers dream pop with a purpose

By SCOTT STROUD

Associated Press

Frances Cone, "Late Riser" (Living Daylight/Thirty Tigers)

Frances Cone's new album "Late Riser" is a brilliant work of modern melancholia that finds the sweet spot between soothing and soaring.

Call it dream pop with a purpose.

The band builds on the creative songwriting of Christina Cone, a classically trained pianist with a sweetly, breathy singing voice.

She draws an assist on arrangements from Andrew Doherty, her partner and primary accompanist. A



This cover image released by Living Daylight/Thirty Tigers shows "Late Riser," by Frances Cone.

Associated Press

half-dozen other musicians contribute, but Cone and Doherty are the constants — and the band's driving force.

"Late Riser" was recorded in New York and Nashville, where Cone and Doherty moved recently.

It's tempting to hear the sensibilities of both places represented, though that may be reading too much into work that could comfortably emerge from either city's vibrant alternative scene. Still, there's an earthy kind of earnestness that keeps Cone's urbane compositions from ranging too far out into space.

Many of the songs set melodic piano and acoustic

guitar above a pulsating bass or guitar line that lends urgency to Cone's songs. She delivers them with intensity, whether on power ballads like "Wide Awake" or the mournfully majestic "Easy Love."

The soaring comes when Doherty and the others add harmony and the music modulates up, as it does on the shimmering "Arizona."

The pattern of crescendo may be mildly formulaic, but the effect remains anthemic and inspiring — and it succeeds again and again on this consistently powerful album, one that signals a band taking flight. □





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